

# KEEP STRONG

• Oakland, Ca.:  
City With A Backbone  
• Redlining In Brooklyn, N.Y.

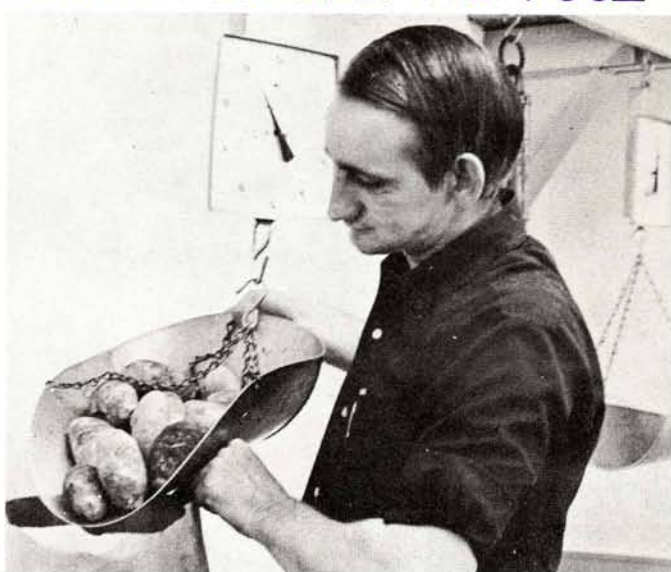
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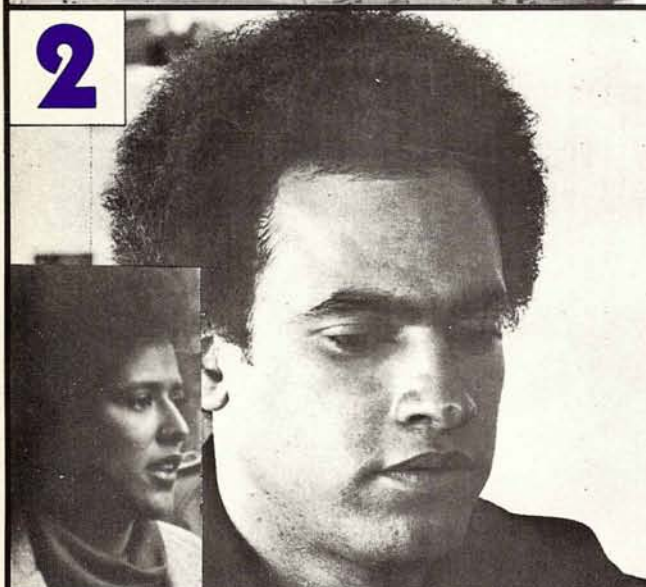
## A Program for Survival



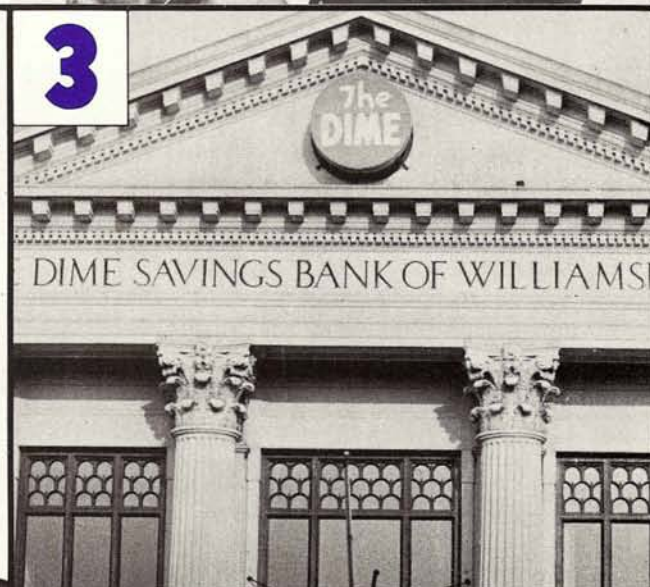
# 1 Program for Survival



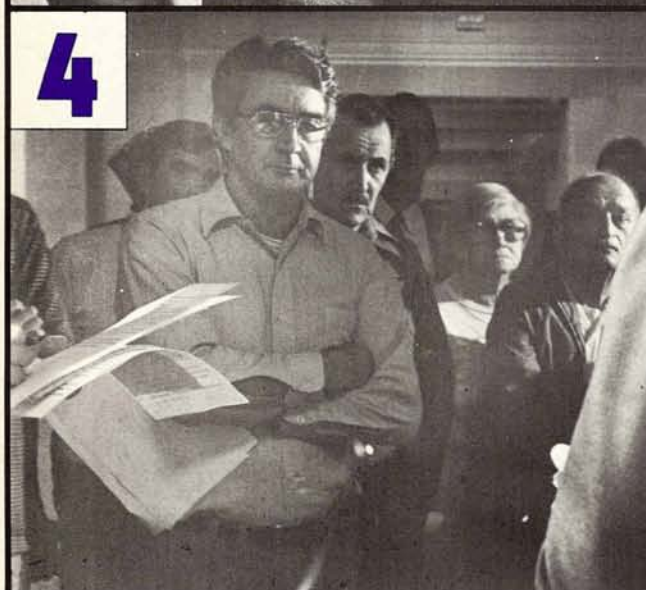
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## *In This Issue*

1. The Program for Survival includes a large variety of programs designed to meet specific needs at specific times. They stand in direct opposition to the power structure's destruction and exploitation in the cities. See Editorial, page 2 and article, page 29.
2. An exclusive interview with Elaine Brown, chairperson of the Black Panther Party, on the imminent return of Huey P. Newton from exile. See page 24.
3. Redlining in the Northside-Williamsburg-Greenpoint areas of Brooklyn, N.Y. is the real destroyer of these neighborhoods. See page 21.
4. Members of several Uptown organizations persist in their struggle for a comprehensive health clinic on Chicago's northside. See page 40.
5. Popular musician Bev Grant and her band, "The Human Condition," returned to Chicago last month. See page 57.

# **Huey P. Newton Is Part Of Our Survival Program**

**If you were born surrounded by quicksand, it is understandable that you would hesitate to walk on new ground. Poor and oppressed people live in the quicksand of lying politicians, thieving businessmen and hustlers of all types and sizes, all promising but never delivering. Suspicion becomes necessary for survival: "look long before you leap." But this point of view makes unity in action difficult, and without unity in action, change is impossible.**

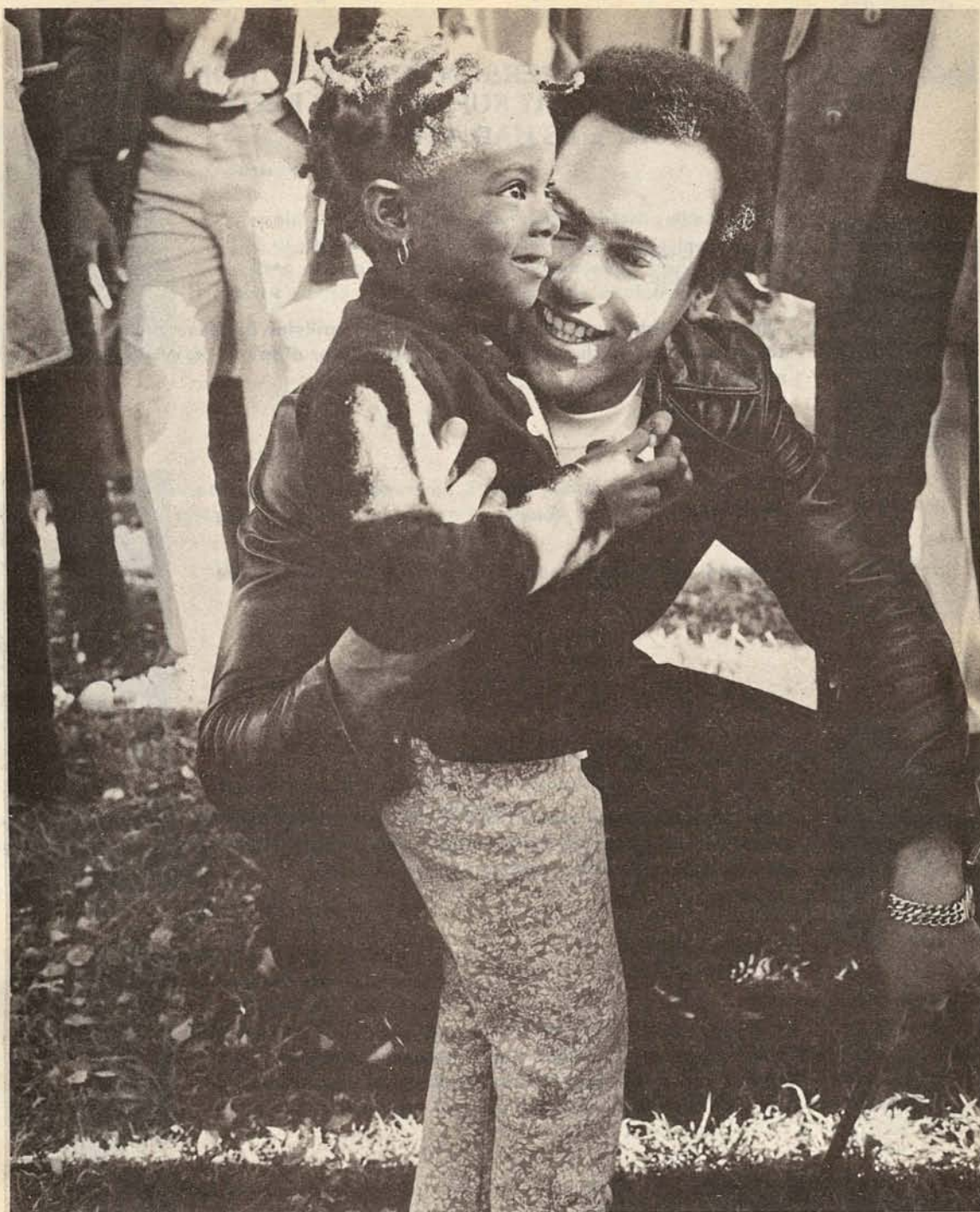
**Out of the depths of the poor and oppressed community, out of the Black community, has come Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party. Huey Newton has designed a step by step program to unify the poor and oppressed communities for progressive change. He called it a survival program.**

**The first step of the survival program is to build a firm foundation, deep among the needs of the people. Food, housing, clothing, education, health care, justice: these are concrete needs, and it has been shown that people will work together on concrete, well-structured programs to insure that these needs are met in the oppressed community. Successful in these first efforts, and able to survive a little more easily, the building people's organization can move to higher levels, challenging the wealthy few and winning more control over their own lives.**

**The election of Lionel Wilson in Oakland was a survival program for the people of that city. The Black Panther Party's ten year struggle to build the unity and confidence of the people resulted in a truly spectacular peoples' organization that turned out a deeply entrenched oppressive political machine and united thousands of Black, Latino, Native American, Asian and poor and working White people in a successful political effort.**

**In the midst of this effort, the Party never sacrificed its principles and its dedication to the interest of the people. It did not disguise itself. Instead it relied on the unity and strength that years of serving the people had developed. Now the Party is there to begin new survival programs, increasing step by step people's control over each piece of the machinery of the city.**

**It is only just that the chief designer of the survival program, Huey P.**



***Newton, be brought back safely to this country. His love and understanding for poor and oppressed people has been proven in the success of his vision. Because of this he was driven from us by those in power three years ago. Huey P. Newton is part of our survival program. We need him, and we will have him back with us. □***

# ON THE STREET

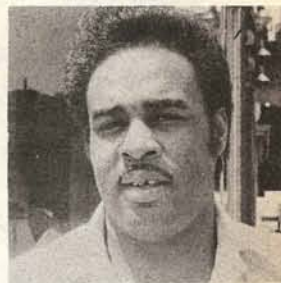
**"DO YOU THINK THAT A PERSON WHO IS OUT ON BOND SHOULD BE UNDER COURT SUPERVISION BEFORE HE OR SHE HAS HAD A TRIAL?"**



**Russell Huffman**  
W. Sunnyside

**"No, I don't think you should be on court supervision because you're paying money to get back out on the streets. Even if you did or didn't do it, you're still paying the money. Right?"**

**Louis Williams**  
S. Stoney Island



**"No, I don't think they should be placed under supervision, because you're not guilty until proven guilty."**



**Janie Clark**  
N. Kenmore

**"Well, I think if you haven't had a trial yet, there's no way you should be under supervision. And I think that's wrong if they do that. That's incriminating your rights and really incriminating you as a human being."**

**Art Herrick**  
W. Agatite



**"No, if they're going to release them on bond, then they're releasing them on their own recognizance. I've been out on bond. It's up to them to show up in court, and if they don't show up in court, then they serve a bench warrant on them."**



**Skip Batie**  
N. Magnolia

**"No, for one thing, it's illegal. He ain't had a fair hearing. He ain't had no hearing at all if he's already out on bond. Then put on court supervision? He ain't supposed to have nothing to do with the court until they give him a court date."**

**Mr. Kincaid  
W. Montrose**



**"They don't know whether you're guilty or not until they try you. What do they want to put you on probation for? You might be innocent."**



**Zeiler  
Portrait artist**

**"I would say the fact that they paid a bond releases them. It gives them a certain kind of release. Now, the whole idea of the bond, I think, is basically a money making scheme. What limited knowledge I have of the bond system, I think it is what I would call 'a racket.' It's more exploitation."**

**Christine Poss  
N. Sheridan**



**"No, because they're not found guilty of the crime. They're just charged with it. Why should you be under court supervision unless you're already tried and convicted?"**



**Tyrone Williams  
175th St.**

**"No, I don't, because if they're out on bond, they're out to be free, right? The courts put enough trust in them to let them out on bond. I feel they should be trusted to be under their own supervision."**

**Willie Campbell  
N. Kenmore**



**"No, because they're out on bond. They paid money, so that's how come they don't have to be under court supervision."**



**Tommy Walker  
S. Ellis**

**"No, I don't think they should, simply because that would be like a conviction, and quite a few people who go to jail because they can't make bond don't even have records and probably haven't even committed a crime. They go in there and get put on court supervision."**

# WELFARE RIGHTS

## Verifiers: They Have To Make Sure You're Not Lying

(Chicago, Ill.) A verifier is a person who works for public aid. His or her job is to visit people at home after they have applied for and *been found eligible* for public aid. This means, after all the documents and papers have been brought in by the applicant and all the statements have been proven to be true, all that's left is a visit just to make sure or "verify" that the applicant is not lying. According to public aid policy, no checks may be issued until the verifier has made a home visit. In most cases, even emergency help may not be given before this time. If there is a shortage of verifiers working out of a district office, people have to wait up to four weeks before they get their check. In Uptown there has been such a shortage at the Lawrence Ave. public aid office for quite some time.

Freddy King came to Chicago from Huntsville, Alabama because there was no work down there, and he thought he'd have better luck here. He got an apartment on Beacon Street and started working out of a day labor office. After being

here for two weeks, he was stabbed in the right arm and was in the hospital for four days. As a result of the stabbing he has lost the use of his right hand which the doctors say they can correct with surgery. But they have to wait until the arm is healed.

On April 12, Freddy applied for general assistance to get him by until he could work again. At that time he received an application which he filled out and returned the following day. He went back and forth to the welfare office several times, getting doctors' notes, papers, etc. All the while they told him he couldn't get emergency help until the verifier visited him.

On May 3, he went in with the final information needed. It all checked out fine. Everything was set. They told him the verifier would visit him that day. "They told me to go home and wait. No verifier came that day or the next or the next. Freddy talked to a worker from the Uptown People's Community Service Center who called welfare. They said the verifier who was supposed to see him was sick. Several more calls were made and finally on May 11 a verifier did come. The next day Freddy got a \$32 emergency food voucher and an emergency rent voucher. These were supposed to last until he got his first check. As *KEEP STRONG* goes to press it is the end of May, and Freddy King still has not received his first check. □

## Food Stamp Re-certification Process Changed

(Chicago, Ill.) For people who receive food stamps but do not receive other assistance (ADC, GA, etc.) eligibility has to be re-established on a regular basis. A letter is mailed out by the caseworker when someone is first approved for food stamps that indicates in advance the date they will expire. After this the only reminder will come on the food stamp card itself.

In the past people would receive a letter with this notification the same month they got their last stamps and then they could respond. Now, however, re-certification comes on the food stamp card itself. "If you want to get food stamps without interruption after your eligibility expires. You must reapply four to eight weeks before your eligibility expires. You will be reminded to reapply by printed message on your next-to-last food stamp authorization card."



In Chicago there has been a shortage of verifiers at the Lawrence Ave. public aid office for quite some time.

A small note on the stub of the food stamp authorization card (where circle appears) will say:

"Your food stamp eligibility ends next month. You must reapply now or benefits will stop next month."

Although caseworkers are responsible to make sure everyone knows when their food stamps expire and knows about the new method for notifying people (see sample card on this page) it has come to the attention of *KEEP STRONG* that this is not always happening. many people have complained of being cut-off to find out that they did not notice a small note on the stub of their food stamp card.

If someone has not received their food stamps this month or last month, they should assume that they have been cut-off automatically by the public aid computer. If this is the case, the food stamp worker should be called immediately. The automatic cut-off should be appealed, and a new application for food stamps needs to be made. □

## Out Of Work With No Relief In Sight

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) It's election year again in New York City, and the politicians are making their usual promises. But little is said of the broken and unfulfilled promises from last time around.

John Janowski, 55, has worked hard all his life. Three years ago he was laid off from his job as a truck driver. After his unemployment ran out and still no job in sight, his wife Margaret, went to work in a clothing store in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. She brings home \$59 a week after taxes. They found that this just wasn't enough to make ends meet.

In August, 1976, Mr. Janowski applied for

| ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AID                                                          |         |     |             |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|-------------|------------|
| USDA FOOD STAMP PROGRAM                                                                    |         |     |             |            |
| THE PERSON WHOSE NAME APPEARS BELOW IS AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM |         |     |             |            |
| CAT                                                                                        | CO/DIST | GRP | CASE NUMBER | EXPIRES ON |
| P3                                                                                         | 204     | 09  | 259739      | 06-06-77   |
| TANES, WALTER                                                                              |         |     |             |            |
| 4676 N. MAGNOLIA                                                                           |         |     |             |            |
| CHICAGO, IL.                                                                               |         |     | 60640       |            |
|          |         |     |             |            |
| SIGNATURE                                                                                  |         |     |             |            |
| <b>CLIENT-DETACH AND KEEP THIS PORTION</b><br>SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FOOD PURCHASE PROXY     |         |     |             |            |

Home Relief (HR, assistance for individuals and couples without children at home). They were accepted and began receiving a small check, food stamps and medicaid while Margaret continues to work. This past March they received a notice informing them that their budget had been "arithmetically recomputed," and they were no longer eligible for HR.

After reading *KEEP STRONG* magazine, Mrs. Janowski asked the Intercommunal Survival Committee (ISC) in Greenpoint to look into the matter. Upon investigation it was learned that Mrs. Janowski earned \$1.40 too much to be eligible for HR. The welfare department, however, failed to inform them that they were still eligible for food stamps and Medicaid separately. They are now in the process of applying for food stamps and medicaid.

A spokesperson for the ISC commented, "The welfare department has the responsibility of informing people who come to them what they are entitled to. They are responsible to see that people are taken care of. Instead they overwhelm people with bureaucratic nonsense. As long as the politicians continue to break their promises and not provide the programs or the means by which people can get decent employment, then people will need assistance in order to survive.

Mrs. Janowski explained, "We've worked hard. We thought by now, in our middle years, we'd be in good shape. But instead we're in the dumps. I had a dream the other night that we were able to get out of this mess. But it was just a dream. I hope that something can happen." □

# TENANTS' RIGHTS

## "One Disaster After Another"

(Chicago, Ill.) A housing crisis exists in this city's oppressed communities. It has for some time. The problems that this has created for people take many forms and shapes. But one fact remains crystal clear at all times: as long as there is not enough decent housing, people will be forced to live in whatever housing they can get.

As reported in last month's *KEEP STRONG*, Three Star Realty is one of the many private real estate brokers (often called slumlords) who are attracted by the promise of fast money for little or no work. As part of a continuing investigation of Three Star, this month *KEEP STRONG* talked to many community residents who lived in their buildings. Sharon Tate, who lived at 4635 N. Malden from November, 1976 to March, 1977 is representative. She describes living there as "one disaster after another."

When Sharon and her five year old son moved into 4635 N. Malden, the bathroom sink was coming off the wall. After one week it was down. After three months Three Star had done nothing to repair it.

Living there during the extreme, cold weather of last winter was not much better. The windows did not close properly. There were large spaces in them. When it snowed it would be snowing in the apartment. When Ms. Tate complained she was told to put plastic on the windows.

Ms. Tate never had an opportunity to talk to the owners directly. The only person she knew to contact was Ms. Walker who worked at the Three Star office. There was no manager in the building. If there was an emergency the tenants were told to contact Ms. Walker.

On January 2, 1977 the pipes froze and burst on the second floor. The only number the tenants had was Ms. Walker's office number. Since it was after hours she could not be reached. While she lived there Ms. Tate asked about the owner of the building several times. Ms. Walker refused to give her this information.

After nearly six months of "one disaster after another," Ms. Tate moved. Her son had been constantly sick from the draft in the window, the



Three Star never did anything for the building at 4635 N. Malden. "They'd take the rent and put nothing back in."

pipes and ceiling were always leaking, and she was paying rent. "They never did anything for the building. They'd take my rent and put nothing back." □

## 4856 N. Magnolia Not Owned By Three Star

(Chicago, Ill.) Last month *KEEP STRONG* printed an exclusive expose on Three Star Realty Company. After a thorough investigation, it was revealed that Three Star has been playing a role in milking the Uptown community through its ownership-management of over 20 buildings. Information used in this article was obtained through city records and from Three Star itself. A letter distributed by Three Star contained the addresses of buildings which they claim to own or manage. Included on this list was the building at 4856 N. Magnolia. *KEEP STRONG* was informed that this building was privately owned and that it is owner-occupied. *KEEP STRONG* regrets the



4856 N. Magnolia

mistake but can only wonder what benefit Three Star Realty could get from distributing this information. □

## ***I-Hotel: "Our Unity Is In Our Strength And Hope"***

(San Francisco, Calif.) Over 400 people rallied in front of city hall here in mid-May to demand that San Francisco officials block the eviction of International Hotel tenants through the process of "eminent domain," while inside, I-Hotel judge Ira Brown disqualified himself after being exposed as a Fillmore slumlord.

The question of the eminent domain process (by which the city will take over the hotel) will

now be decided in the court of appellate judge Charles Perry, who has already expressed his point of view in court proceedings that he does not believe that eminent domain is a possible course of action. Brown disqualified himself due to an obvious case of conflict of interest.

Numerous times in court, Brown, who was recently exposed by a local newspaper, showed outright contempt toward the I-Hotel cause. The overtly biased judge is the one who ordered the eviction in July of last year.

After successfully blocking another eviction attempt by the Hong Kong-based Four Seas Corporation in January of this year, the tenants of the I-Hotel have been prodding the city to gain possession of the building. Four Seas has filed suit to stop the San Francisco Housing Authority from acquiring the I-Hotel.

The high point of the demonstration was when Felix Ayson, one of the residents of the I-Hotel, gave an emotional, inspiring speech which symbolized the unwavering strength of the elderly Chinese and Filipino tenants, who are fighting desperately to keep their homes:

"We have been terrorized by insecurity but we are here to fight for our right to stay. We, poor people, we working class people, are being victimized too much by the economic conditions we are facing now. We demand that the city provide us with low-rent housing ... It is their responsibility. In closing, like an old wise man, Ayson reminded, "Our unity is in our strength and hope."



As over 400 people rallied in mid-May to block the eviction of I-Hotel tenants (left), I-Hotel resident Felix Ayson (above) gave an inspiring speech symbolizing the unwavering strength of the elderly Chinese and Filipino tenants who are fighting desperately to keep their homes.

Two other I-Hotel tenants, Nita Rader and Wahat Tampao (who has lived there since 1929), both gave militant speeches demanding that the city support them in their struggle against investors.

Other statements of support came from the 540 Coalition, which staged a successful 26-day sit-in to gain new rights for disabled people; the American Indian Movement (AIM); the Chinese Progressive Association; the Asian Community Center; and the California Legislative Council on Older Americans. □

## **"13 Times More Money Is Spent On Antiques Than On Senior Citizens"**

(Milwaukee, Wis.) "How can you take a woman who has been living in her own home since 1917 and move her out knowing that the readjustment might kill." This was a comment from a neighbor of 89 year old Anna Bagley, formerly of 1932 S. 15th Place.

Mrs. Bagley's home was the last of eight buildings at 15th and Forest Home that the city has destroyed in the last two years. Four of the eight were homes located on S. 15th Place. The Department of City Development (DCD) is the city's responsible agency for the work of acquiring and demolishing buildings.

Over 150 community residents staged a "Spontaneous Vigil" during the 12 hour ordeal to show support and concern for Mrs. Bagley's courage and disgust at the DCD, County Sheriff Department, and Milwaukee Police Department forced eviction. Some of the youth had picket signs and others threw stones at city officials.

Mrs. Bagley, who has relocated in another home on S. 15th Place, was offered \$13,000 for her home. Neighbors felt this was a low price considering a similar house on the same block, which is now for sale on the market for \$19,400.

Neighbors fear that large land developers will try to put a large apartment complex on the vacant land. As one woman put it after seeing it on the news, "They are turning this into a Media Spectacular and making it appear as though she (Mrs. Bagley) is crazy. I know better. I've been her neighbor for 30 years." □

## **LEGAL RIGHTS**

### **"It Was A Big Con Game"**

(Milwaukee, Wis.) *KEEP STRONG* is aware of the tremendous hardships elderly people go through, particularly the disabled. Instead of the government and businesses developing services for the people, they maintain a caste system to keep the elderly from enjoying their later years. The story of Mrs. Clarice Dvorak is a case in point. Mrs. Dvorak is being denied a Master Charge credit card now, but when it served the purpose of Master Charge, Mrs. Dvorak and her now deceased husband were given a card without even asking for one.



Master Charge refused Mrs. Dvorak a charge card, even though she has always had a good credit record, claiming, "We have to protect her from herself."

In 1967, Mrs. Dvorak and her husband Jerome bought a stove on time from a local coast to coast store. Shortly after the purchase, the stove proved to be defective, with an oven door which wouldn't shut properly and a broiler which didn't work. Though the Dvoraks complained several times, including to the Better Business Bureau, the defective stove was neither replaced nor fixed. Without explanation, the Dvorak's account for the stove was turned over to Master Charge. In turn they received a card in Mr. Dvorak's name. Though complaints about the stove brought no results either, the Dvoraks continued

to make regular payments for the stove and other items purchased with the credit card. They maintained their good credit standing as they had over the years with a local finance company credit union where Mr. Dvorak worked and with Gimbel's.

In 1973, Mr. Dvorak, who had emphysema and a heart condition, died. Within a month, Master Charge asked for the credit card back and that final payments be made. Mrs. Dvorak sent the card in and paid the remaining bill, despite the fact that she had not yet started receiving her social security and veterans payments and had no other source of income.

In December, 1976 Mrs. Dvorak applied at her bank for a Master Charge card, citing her husband's previous good account. Within a few weeks she was denied the card by the downtown Master Charge office "because of insufficient income." It was suggested that she apply again at the First Wisconsin Bank (which administers Master Charge) on 10th and Mitchell. In February, Mrs. Dvorak did just that. A few weeks later First Wisconsin called to tell Mrs. Dvorak she was approved and that she would get her credit card in about two months. It was also suggested that Mrs. Dvorak deposit her savings in the First Wisconsin. It was at this time that Mrs. Dvorak first suspected that "it was a big con game." She decided to wait on switching her savings account until after receiving her Master Charge.

When by April, Mrs. Dvorak hadn't yet received the card, she called the bank to find out what was happening. The bank then informed her that she was again denied the credit card because of "insufficient income." Angered that the bank went back on its word and wouldn't even send a written notice, Mrs. Dvorak called the downtown office and talked to a Mr. Milaas. Mr. Milaas claimed they never received the second Master Charge application and suggested that Mrs. Dvorak apply a third time.

After being contacted by Mrs. Dvorak, the Intercommunal Survival Committee Legal Program investigated the case. After two days of the "runaround," the real reason for the credit card denial became very clear. Mr. Edwards, an official of Master Charge, explained, "It would be very dangerous for Mrs. Dvorak to have this card. What if she would spend too much money. We have to be able to protect her from herself. Jim Cocharan, also of Master Charge, added, "What would happen if the card was stolen?" when the ISC legal advocate replied "Report it, just like anyone else," Cocharan answered, "Old people don't report these things." □

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

### **Masterplan Urges Abandonment Of Four Ill. Prisons**

(Chicago, Ill.) According to a secret report, made public last month, the state's four largest prisons—Stateville, Menard, Joliet and Pontiac—are so dilapidated and dangerous that they should be abandoned. The study offers a "masterplan" for improving the Illinois prison system and reducing the prison population but warns that if the recommended steps are not taken immediately, the system will reach a state of emergency. Such crises currently exist in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. In those states the courts have called the prisons and jails uninhabitable and have ordered the federal government to intervene in prison operations.

The confidential study was done for the Illinois Dept. of Corrections by the University of Illinois at Urbana. Although state and prison officials tried to keep the report confidential until this month, a copy was obtained by the *Chicago Sun Times* in May.

The study recommends a drastic reduction in the state prison population to 5,700 by 1985. This could be achieved mainly by greater use of parole, probation, shorter sentences and other alternatives to long sentences. State legislators and officials including the governor have already rejected the plan, as seen by bills passed in the state general assembly abolishing parole and establishing longer fixed sentences. State officials project 17,000 prisoners by 1985, without construction of new prisons. Currently, the Illinois prison system holds 10,000 inmates, 71% of whom are Black and the majority of whom come from poor communities. By the end of 1977 officials predict an inmate population of 12,000.

The report cites overcrowding, irreparable physical defects and inadequate facilities as conditions leading to prison violence. In the case of Joliet the report also criticizes the housing of young offenders and mentally disturbed ones. The study recommends emergency renovation at Pontiac and Joliet. It ultimately calls for construction of new facilities altogether which would house no more than 400 inmates each. The governor's \$25 million budget increase for prison

reform is termed "ridiculously low" by the report.

Although they denied that copies were available, state officials have reviewed the plan, and according to the *Chicago Sun Times*, the report is "controversial." Acting Illinois Department of Corrections head Charles Rowe says the plan to scrap the four big prisons is unrealistic and would cost the state \$500 million in new construction. Furthermore, the plan is "not compatible with the general assembly or elected officials."

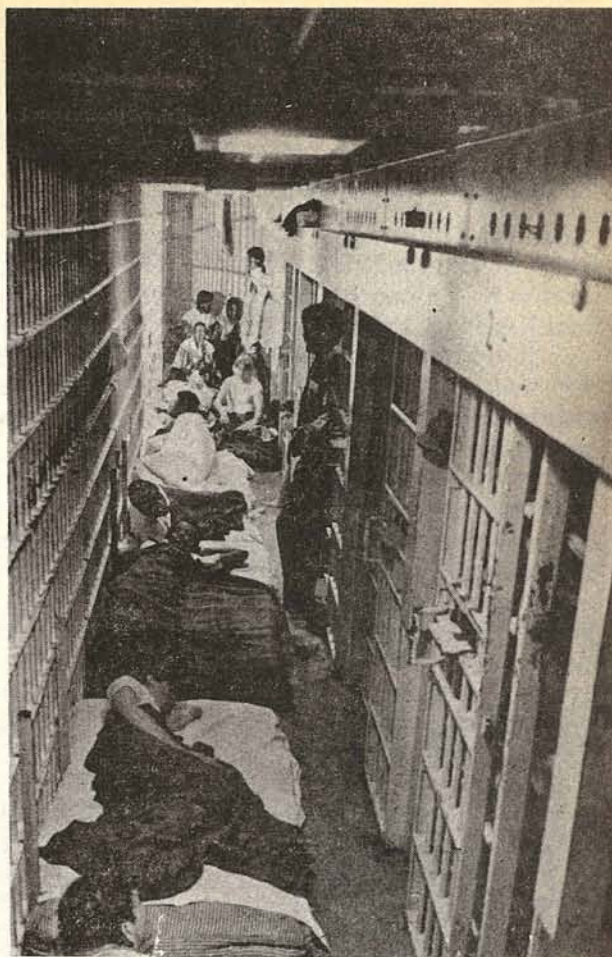
Governor Thompson has been forced to admit that prison overcrowding has reached a critical point. To prevent possible rebellions, Thompson is considering converting state mental hospitals into prisons. Five institutions including state hospitals at East Moline and Anna are on a "hit list." The list includes facilities where prisoners could suddenly be transferred.

The Illinois Dept. of Corrections is already being sued by the U.S. Justice Department and inmates at the four big prisons. The suit charges that the Illinois state prisons' conditions and treatment of inmates constitute cruel and unusual punishment, therefore a violation of civil rights. A similar suit filed by inmates at Menard goes to trial early this summer. □

## Thompson War On Crime = War On Poor People

(Springfield, Ill.) Last month the Illinois state legislature passed several laws through the state house of representatives including ones which would abolish parole and establish fixed prison sentences. These bills and others are part of Governor Thompson's "get tough on crime" program. Many people have noted, however, that, in fact, the governor's proposals are a "get tough on people" program.

The bills, which now await approval by the state senate, establish "flat time" or determinate sentences for persons convicted of a felony. For example, a person convicted of armed robbery would face a mandatory sentence of 6 to 25 years. Currently, the person receives a minimum sentence of four years but no maximum. In addition, "the habitual criminal" bill, sponsored by State Rep. Roman Kosinski (D-Chicago) also easily passed the house last month. This bill



Already extremely overcrowded prisons in Illinois will be further taxed by proposed state legislation.

imposes mandatory life sentences with *no parole* for persons convicted of three violent crimes, including murder, rape, deviate sexual assault, armed robbery, arson and kidnapping. In the case of a "natural life" sentence for murder, the only relief would be a pardon by the governor.

Other key bills supported by Thompson and approved by the legislature would: deny bond to persons appealing a conviction if they were convicted of violent crimes or offenses committed with a "dangerous" weapon; forbid probation for persons convicted of a second major felony within a 10 year period; require prisoners to serve the minimum term for each consecutive sentence before they would be eligible for parole.

Under present Illinois law, a person sentenced six 20-to-60 year terms would be eligible for parole after the minimum term for the first sentence is served, i.e., 11 years, 6 months. But under the new bill, a person would have to serve 11 years and 6 months on each consecutive sentence or 69 years before becoming eligible for parole!

People out on bail would lose many rights and

would come under stricter supervision by probation officers. Bail could be revoked for associating with a "convicted felon," or for engaging in "unlawful business or activity." Carrying a gun, or associating with someone who does, also could be grounds for losing bail. This so-called "bail reform" bill assumes a person is guilty even before he or she comes to a trial.

These bills, it is said by the lawmakers, will remove the threat of crime against "peaceful law-abiding citizens" by putting the "criminals" away where they belong. Others disagree. Pointing to the conditions in the cities, they ask, "Why doesn't the Thompson administration 'get tough' on unemployment, substandard housing, poor education or police brutality?" Or, pointing to Illinois prisons they ask, "How can throwing more people into already overcrowded, dirty and understaffed prisons do anything to stop crime?" □

## **HEALTH NEWS**

### ***"The Butcher Shop"***

(Milwaukee, Wis.) When you hear someone on the Southside refer to the "butcher shop," there is little doubt that they are talking about Johnston Municipal Hospital. Located at 13th and Widlake, the hospital is the only city-owned and operated hospital in Milwaukee. (The major public health facility is County General, located in the suburb of Wauwatosa, seven miles from the central city.) While Johnston Municipal Hospital is supposed to be an emergency facility, it is understaffed, causing 'long waits and inadequate treatment for patients needing immediate attention.

One 14 year old youth recently found out the hard way that Johnston Hospital was little more than a first aid station. Tony injured his wrist while skate boarding. Suspecting a broken wrist, his mother took him to Johnston Hospital. After X-rays showed that his wrist was broken, Tony and his mother were both surprised and angered when they were told that they would have to go to St. Luke's or St. Francis Hospital the next day to get the wrist set in a cast. All the doctor would do for Tony was wrap the wrist in gauze and apply a thin splint, leaving the wrist without adequate protection and prone to injury while Tony slept that night. No explanation was offered as to why the cast could not be put on at



Johnston Municipal Hospital

Johnston. The next day at St. Luke's it was found out that Tony's wrist was actually broken in two places.

The root cause of the problem at Johnston Municipal Hospital is that the city, as part of its overall masterplan to destroy low-income communities, has slated the closing of Johnston Municipal for the end of the year. The first phase of the closing has been to deliberately let the services at Johnston deteriorate over the years and to reduce the hours of service. The city health department has created a "butcher shop" in hopes that community residents would be indifferent to the closing of the hospital. But the plan of the health officials is backfiring. Residents are not only becoming vocal in their demand to keep Johnston Municipal Hospital open, they are extending their concerns to include demands on the quality of the care itself. □

# EDUCATION

## A Boston In Brooklyn?

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) The struggle for quality education has been going on in New York City for the past 20 years. In 1967-68, Black and Puerto Rican parents and other community members from the Ocean Hill and Brownsville sections of Brooklyn organized a movement for community control of the schools. They were demanding the right to make the schools accountable to the students and their parents by having control over their financial resources, setting up of relevant curriculums and hiring and firing of personnel, including teachers.

The community control movement was defeated in 1968 by the U.F.T (United Federation of Teachers), the Board of Education and several White parent organizations. Many of the same people who opposed community control have been violently opposed to "open enrollment," a policy set by the Board of Education in 1971 to send students from overcrowded, segregated Black and Puerto Rican schools to less crowded, majority White schools. "Damned if you do, damned if you don't," exclaimed one father from Brownsville. "They don't want our kids to go to their school, and they don't want us to improve ours. One thing White parents have to understand is that the issue is *not* integration—it's education."

In Bensonhurst, a predominantly White Italian-American neighborhood in Brooklyn, an organization called the Community Coalition was formed in 1975 to oppose "open enrollment." It is affiliated with R.O.A.R. (Restore Our Alienated Rights), a group in South Boston similar to those in Louisville and Milwaukee which in the past few years have instigated much racial violence. This climate of racial tension is increasing in Brooklyn.

On March 29, 1977 several White students were taunting a few Black youths in front of their home in the Marlboro housing projects in Bensonhurst. The insults turned into a battle and ended in the stabbing of 17 year old John Montalto, a White youth from a local high school. Nine and a half hours after Montalto's death, two Black women and a young Black man were returning home to the projects when a brown Cadillac with two middle-aged White men in it drove by and fired a shotgun, injuring one



A climate of racial tension instigated by the Community Coalition is increasing in Brooklyn.

woman in her leg and hitting 20 year old Gregory Thompson in the stomach. He died upon reaching the hospital.

On May 4, 24 year old Fernando Widgeburn was shot and killed by two White men who fired from a double parked car and then sped off. None of the assailants in the cars has been caught. A Black man was picked up by the police for the murder of John Montalto.

One mother from Bensonhurst who didn't go along with the Community Coalition said, "I don't understand what all the commotion is about—none of the schools are so hot. I think that all the kids should have a chance to get a decent education."□

## Independent Candidates Run For School Board

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) On Tuesday, May 3, local school board elections were held in communities throughout New York City. In District 14 (Greenpoint, Williamsburg and part of Bushwick), a group of independent candidates, running on the Parents' Slate and Community Slate received a significant number of votes. One of the Community Slate candidates, Leroy

Diane Turowski (left) and Linda Fox, candidates for local school board elections in District 14 (Brooklyn, N.Y.), are determined to continue the fight for community control of the schools and quality education.



Fredericks, was re-elected to the board.

"In some ways this was a different type of campaign than District 14 has seen before. We let people know things about the school board they had never known," said one campaign worker for the Parents' Slate. An emphasis during the campaign was placed on door-to-door contact with people in the community. Through this door-to-door work the campaign workers for the Parents' Slate informed hundreds of people about the issues of the election. The decision-making of the local board, the level of education in the schools, the tracking system and racism in the district were some of the things brought out and discussed by the independent candidates.

As election day approached, the U.F.T. (United Federation of Teachers) machine went into action. Through phone calls, leafleting and letters in the local papers, the U.F.T. attempted to discredit the independent candidates. They circulated a leaflet in Greenpoint entitled "We Have Roots Also" which attempted to stir up and appeal to racist and anti-poor people feelings. On election day, they had many workers from the local district office campaigning for the U.F.T. endorsed candidates.

In spite of the concerted effort to discredit members of the Parents' and Community Slates, hundreds of people did turn out to vote for the independent slates. One voter was heard remarking to her friend, "I don't usually vote, but that Turowski girl (Diane Turowski, candidate) came to my house, and the things she said make a lot of sense. We do need some candidates who are going to fight for better education."

Overall, there was a low voter turn-out on election day. Around the city, only 7% of the eligible voters came out to vote. In District 14,

out of approximately 75,000 eligible voters, less than 10,000 voted. The results of this low voter turn-out was that in District 14, eight of the U.F.T. endorsed candidates were elected, and only one independent candidate was elected. Throughout the city, the results were similar, with the U.F.T. continuing to control the majority of the local boards.

After the election *KEEP STRONG* got in touch with some of the campaign workers and independent candidates to find out their feelings and what they plan to do next.

Diane Cusimano, a campaign worker for the Parents' Slate, thought that the participation of independent candidates in the election was a positive thing — "Winning or not winning, it was educational."

Linda Fox, a candidate for the local board said, "We see this as a start, and we are determined to continue the fight for community control of the schools and quality education for our children. The results of the school board election show that there are hundreds of parents around the district who feel the same way."

New York Intercommunal Survival Committee coordinator Marc Kaplan summed up the feelings of many of the participants when he said, "What the election shows is that without an organized structure that represents the concrete needs and desires of poor and working people, we will never be able to achieve any amount of control of institutions in our own communities. And even though we had a lot of good ideas and a lot of people who were responsive, the U.F.T. and their endorsed candidates were able to out-spend us, out-publicize us, out-organize us and finally out-vote us. This is the situation we need to change." □

# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## Oak St. Center Organizes Programs For Survival

(San Francisco, Calif.) Not even a year old, the Oak Street Community Center, located in San Francisco's oppressed community, has grown from a desire to serve the people into a concrete group of survival programs which attempt to meet the needs of the community's residents. The volunteer staff of the center works seven days a week maintaining the programs and involving community people in their expansion and improvement.

In a recent interview with *KEEP STRONG*, center director John Denison explained the purpose of the center; "Many people have a false impression of the city of San Francisco and this community. Only when you go out and knock on doors do you realize that there are a large number of very poor people in this area, who are disorganized and suffering because the city has forgotten about them in its drive to become the financial center of the West. It was our intention to work with the people to organize those resources which are available and obtain those which are needed so that we could begin to insure that certain basic survival needs were being met.

"We organized a day care center, allowing

working mothers and mothers in school to have a place for their children which provides a learning environment that cares for and respects the children. Realizing that the police have no real regard for our safety, we organized self defense classes in which the fundamentals of physical conditioning and martial arts are taught. We distribute *THE BLACK PANTHER Intercommunal News Service* and *KEEP STRONG* magazine regularly on the streets because poor Whites here, as everywhere, have no source of news or information which deals with their problems or expresses their struggles.

"On Saturdays, we have a free matinee program which brings quality motion pictures within the reach of families from this community. We are now initiating a monthly tenants' rights workshop which brings competent legal people into the community to answer people's questions about landlord-tenant law and help when they have specific cases. Many people have asked for a program like this because the land around here is changing hands fast, and the number of real estate speculators in the community has increased greatly recently.

"A group of people are working out of the center on the district election referendum. We are in support of the district election concept as the only way we can really hold our elected representatives accountable and make them fight in our interests.

"Very early in our development, we recognized that we had to look to someone for direction, as well as a method that would insure that we continued to grow. The Black Panther Party was the only group around that had an understanding of what needs to be done and how to go about it step by step. We really have to thank them for the model they have provided."□



One of the programs of the Oak Street Community Center, located in San Francisco's oppressed community, is a day care center that provides a learning and caring atmosphere for the children.

## **RANK'N FILE**

### **Cab Drivers Union Under Attack From Companies**

(Chicago, Ill.) Faced with an ultimatum from this city's two major taxi companies, Chicago cab drivers voted overwhelmingly May 25 to buck the threats and strike June 1 if demands for their new contract were not met. Key to the dispute is the companies' policy of refusing to allow union representation for cab drivers who lease cabs. Currently only commission drivers can be represented by the union.

The seeds of this dispute began two years ago when Yellow Cab and Checker Taxi began leasing cabs to drivers, ignoring the unions charges of unfair labor practices. In the midst of an hysteria campaign which claimed that they were going bankrupt, the companies put the blame on the union for making too many demands for the commission drivers. Since then, according to union officials, the companies have been waging "a war of attrition" against the union, encouraging drivers to lease instead of drive on commission and constantly threatening to stop commission driving all together.

In 1975 the union filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in

Chicago. The NLRB ruled that the cab companies were guilty of unfair labor practices. The board stated that all drivers, whether they leased or drove on commission, were employees and therefore could be represented by the union. The Yellow and Checker cab companies, choosing to ignore this ruling, continued to insist that lease drivers were private contractors, not employees and therefore not covered by labor agreements or eligible for union representation. They filed their own suit to prevent the union from negotiating for the lease drivers.

The union has received cards from over a thousand lease drivers requesting membership. The bottom line in the negotiations, union officials say, is the right to represent at least those workers who have signed with them. The issue, they say, is a crucial one, "We've got to have some recognition for leased drivers in order to have security for the union."

Numerous interviews with cab drivers throughout Chicago by *KEEP STRONG* this month echoed this sentiment. Although opinions were varied as to the virtues of lease versus commission driving, and opinions varied from one driver to the next as to whether they would prefer to be in the union themselves, they all repeated the same thing: "The company is trying to destroy the union. The drivers ought to have a choice. If they want to join the union, they should be able to."

As the strike deadline nears, Yellow Cab and Checker Taxi have warned the union that they will impose their own contract terms for commission drivers June 1 and will continue to



Most cab drivers will agree: "The company is trying to destroy the union."

lease cabs to other drivers if faced with a strike. Besides a plan to make commission drivers pay for their own gasoline, they threaten to cut off all payments of union dues if there is a strike, costing the union up to \$20,000 a month.

Lease drivers get their cabs from the company for a flat weekly rate. Although all the money they take is clear, they buy their own gas and oil and receive no medical insurance, workman's compensation or vacation pay. If their cab breaks down it is the company's responsibility to fix it. But, they are not guaranteed a replacement car while it is being fixed, nor do they receive any money back on the time they have to wait. Many lease drivers complain that they have difficulty reserving their cabs, and as one leasee explained, "I have to rent my cab seven days a week in order to make sure I have a cab."

The commission drivers work a five or six day week. They split the money they take in on the meter with the company. Their gas is provided, they have a hospital plan and up to 30 days paid vacation depending on how long they have worked. If they come in and no cab is available or if their cab breaks down, the company may or may not give them another vehicle to drive. However, if they don't receive another cab to drive, they are paid a flat rate for that day. Several commission drivers are concerned that wages have barely gone up in the last few years. Most have added that "since the companies began leasing cabs the union has been in a bad position." Referring to notices posted by the company in garages around the city warning that as of June 1, "Drivers will pay cash for their gas at the end of each shift" many complained, "If the company tries to make us pay for our own gas, there will be nothing left of our commission for us to take home."□

## Social Service Employees Win Their Demands

(N.Y.C., N.Y.) After promising to carry on their strike as long as necessary, striking employees of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children (AHRC) announced they had won their demands May 26. The AHRC serves retarded children and adults that the N.Y.C. Board of Education cannot deal with. Charging that management does not care about its employees or its clients, the 120 teachers, counselors, social



Striking social service workers: "We can't give the quality care that is needed."

workers and clerical workers employed by AHRC walked out April 29. They are represented by the Community and Social Agency Employees Union, District Council 1707.

The main issue in the dispute was pay. Ellen Gurzinsky, a teacher, explained, "Our salaries are extremely low as compared to the teachers in the public schools, yet we have a much more difficult job. Our salaries before the strike began at as little as \$6,000. The average salary is \$8,094."

Ms. Gurzinsky commented on other issues that were at stake; "The conditions also need to be improved. Management's idea of how to save money is to overwork the teachers and cut back on the quality of care for our kids. For example, they have three grades of teachers. Teachers "3" are your lowest grade. There are supposed to be two out of these teachers in a classroom at all times. Yet they'll send out one of the teacher's on matron duty, escorting a group of kids somewhere, and leave just one teacher in the classroom. That is too much for one teacher to handle. We also have very poor health benefits."

The striking employees had closed AHRC's 13 centers throughout New York City. Management had charged that the children were suffering because of this. Carol Kirschenbaum, another

teacher who also walked the picket line, commented, "Many of the parents of these children were there supporting us. They know we have families, too. The poor salary offered here causes a high turnover rate of teachers. This in turn affects the children. There's not enough consistency from year to year. We can't give the quality care that is needed."

Management finally came to terms with an offer that dealt with all the issues raised by the strikers. The employees voted unanimously to accept. On the picket line Ira Polansky, a striking teacher, stated, "Management thought we were weak but we held out. When asked about the victory he added, "This is the turning point. If we didn't win it, it would be a lot more difficult in the future. We have to prepare management now to treat us properly in the future."□

## FIGHTING CITY HALL

### S.F. Progressives Mobilize To Beat Recall Move

(San Francisco, Calif.) Progressive organizations and individuals here are mobilizing their forces for the upcoming fight against a special local referendum, which seeks to reinstate city-wide elections of supervisors as well as unseat the mayor and other current city officials.

Initiated by reactionary Supervisor John Barbagelata, who alleges that the August 2 election is necessary in order to relieve what he describes as "widespread dissatisfaction" with the present city government led by Mayor George Moscone, the referendum has already created a bitter controversy within the city.

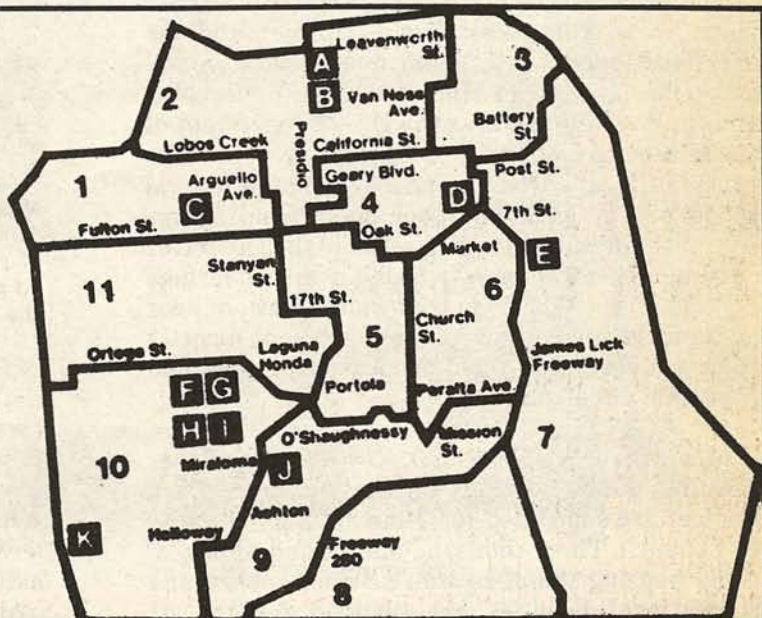
Last month, Barbagelata forces obtained the necessary 22,147 signatures of registered voters required to put Propositions A and B on the summer ballot. Proposition A will be the proposed repeal of district elections of supervisors, a system approved by San Francisco voters as Proposition T in the November, 1976 elections. Proposition B will be a measure calling for new elections in November for top city officers.

Barbagelata, who was defeated for mayor by Moscone in 1975, seeks the cutoff of the present terms of Mayor Moscone, San Francisco District Attorney Joseph Freitas and Sheriff Richard Hongisto, forcing the three officials to run again this November, two years before their normal terms would be up.

Barbagelata insisted that he will not run for mayor if his proposal wins. However, the conservative supervisor made it no secret that he is attempting to halt "what he sees as a radical political drift that could lead activists and community groups into further power and scare away business and middle-class residents before the normal elections for top city officials two years from now," *The New York Times* reported.

"I think the biggest problem in San Francisco is that we have motivated all the malcontents and discontents around the country to come to our

Proposition T, which established district elections in San Francisco, faces a stiff test from the city's right-wing forces.



tiny city, and we can't handle them," Barbagelata said.

Mayor Moscone, fighting for his political life, and progressive forces have begun efforts to raise \$100,000 with which to defeat the Barbagelata campaign. Last month, the mayor was host at a fund raising cocktail party held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel for 250 opponents of the Barbagelata measure.

Attacking the supervisor's motives in calling for a new election, the mayor charged that the entire campaign is "a diversion from our very important task of trying to make San Francisco a better place to live." Moscone said that the election will cost the city taxpayers over \$400,000 while "needlessly" disrupting the city. □

## City-wide Movement To Halt OEDP Grows

(Chicago, Ill.) In a last ditch attempt to offer the city a way to bail itself out due to serious violations in Chicago's Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP), 39 organizations and five local officials sent a letter last month to Robert T. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Commerce in Washington, D.C. They have announced plans to file a lawsuit by early June if there is no response to objections voiced by the broad-based Coalition since last November.

The letter, signed by groups from Pilsen, the Near North Side, West Town, Uptown and the West Side along with Aldermen Rhodes, Simpson, Oberman and Lathrop and State Senator Harold Washington, asks the U.S. Department of Commerce to officially stop approval of the present Chicago OEDP. The city violated federal guidelines by excluding poor people and minorities from decision-making in the plan. The letter demands that community-based public hearings be held on the OEDP so that Black, Latino, poor and underemployed people may present directly to the government their proposals for jobs and economic development.

Meanwhile, *KEEP STRONG* has learned that the first public hearings on the Dearborn Park Project are scheduled for June 23, 2 p.m. at the city council. Three thousand middle and upper-income housing units, as well as school, park and recreational facilities are planned for the 51

acre site bounded by Polk, State, 15th St. and Clark St. Thirteen million dollars of city funds would be used for sanitation, fire and police protection, etc. At a press conference last month, the Coalition voiced its opposition to the project. Their point was clear: money, public and private, slated for Dearborn Park should be invested instead in low-income housing and jobs for the city's Black, Latino and poor and working White communities.

Dearborn Park is the first phase of the city's Chicago 21 Plan which is directed at building a "protected" circle around Chicago's downtown area, often referred to as the Loop. The rapidly growing Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan opposes the implementation of this phase as the first wave in a great tidal wave which will wreak further havoc on this city's oppressed communities.



At a press conference last month the Coalition against the 21 Plan voiced its opposition to the Dearborn Park Project.

After the June 23 hearing there must be one more public hearing on Dearborn Park held by the Committee on Building and Zoning. Anyone may speak at these public hearings or submit written testimony. Groups interested in the upcoming hearings and who wish more information on the Chicago 21 Plan may contact the Coalition at 337-0218 or 769-2086. □

# REDLINING IN BROOKLYN

## *Who Destroys the Neighborhoods?*

Studies in recent months have begun to bring to light the role of banks in destroying neighborhoods through the practice of redlining. Redlining is the refusal by banks to invest in a community. Homeowners, apartment owners and small business people in such areas often cannot obtain mortgages, refinancing of existing mortgages, home improvement or business loans. In some cases, where mortgages and loans are available, applicants face higher interest rates, additional "service" charges or higher down payment requirements than applicants seeking financing in areas that are favored by the banks.

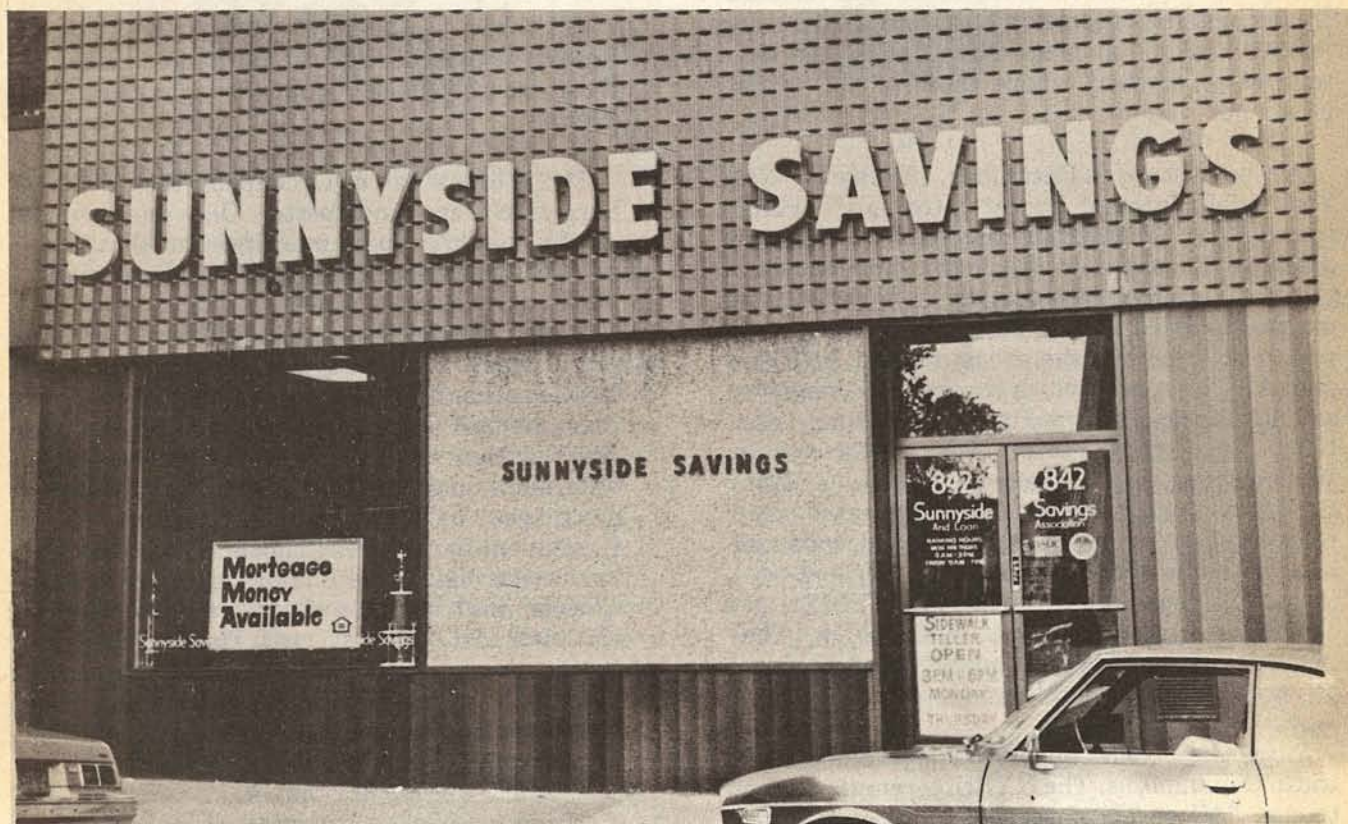
Thousands are turned down because mortgage money is not available in redlined areas.

One family had lived in their neighborhood for

35 years and wanted to buy the six family building they had lived in for 32 years. They went to nine banks and at one point were even refused an application. The stated policy of the banks is that no mortgages are given to six family houses.

A family wanted to buy a single family house they've lived next to for many years. The bank refused them a mortgage citing lack of central heating. The applicants offered to install central heating once they owned the house and could get a home improvement loan. The bank still refused, claiming they had to have central heating installed before they bought the house.

The way banks redline are many, from openly admitting they don't lend in certain areas to charging higher down payments. They might



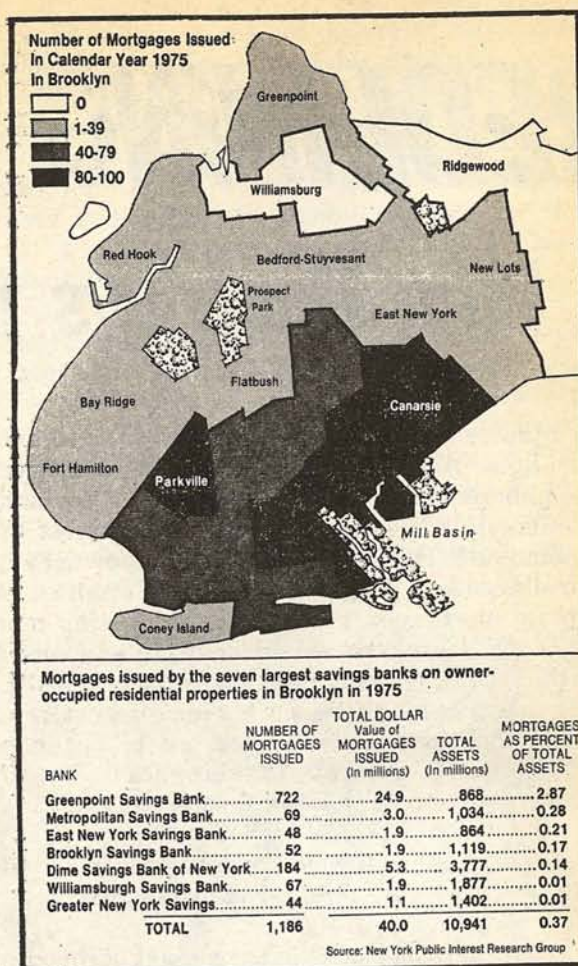
offer only a 10 or 15 year mortgage instead of a 25 or 30 year mortgage, thus making the monthly payment much higher and out of reach. One bank doesn't issue mortgages on any building that has bathtubs with legs on them!

There are two types of banks: commercial and savings. Savings banks primarily earn their money off the interest they charge on loans. Most depositors live near to the savings bank they use. On paper at least, the bulk of a bank's loans would also be made in the nearby area. However, what the recent studies and investigations have proved is that this is far from reality.

In a report released May 10 of this year by the State Banking Department, it was learned that while the ten major savings banks based in Brooklyn get three-fourths of their deposits from the borough, only 11% of those deposits are invested in residential mortgages in Brooklyn. The rest is either invested elsewhere in the city (in new luxury housing) or out of the city altogether. The hard earned dollars of Brooklynites have been used to finance mortgages in places as far away as Florida and Texas. For example, in 1975 the Williamsburg Savings Bank received 81% of its deposits from its New York City branches, yet they only had 15% of their mortgages on properties in NYC. In 1975, they issued 67 mortgages in Brooklyn for a total value of slightly less than \$2 million. They did, however, commit \$5 million to the General Development Corporation of Miami as financing for 200 residential properties. The banks have refused to disclose where most of the investments go.

A report issued in December, 1976 by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) reveals that Brooklyn savings banks favor some areas of Brooklyn over others. The southern third of Brooklyn received the vast majority of mortgage loans while northern Brooklyn received little or in some areas none in 1975 (see map A). The report which covered the top seven savings banks of Brooklyn (The Dime, East N.Y., Brooklyn, Greater N.Y., Metropolitan, Williamsburg and Greenpoint); noted, "Many Brooklyn savings banks have abdicated their responsibility to their depositors and communities. With one honorable exception (Greenpoint), the seven banks surveyed by the NYPIRG are choking the flow of credit in Brooklyn. They pursue profit outside their home areas and ignore the credit needs of local residents."

Particularly hard hit were Black and Puerto Rican communities. The NYPIRG report went on to say, "All seven of the banks surveyed have discriminated against the Black population of

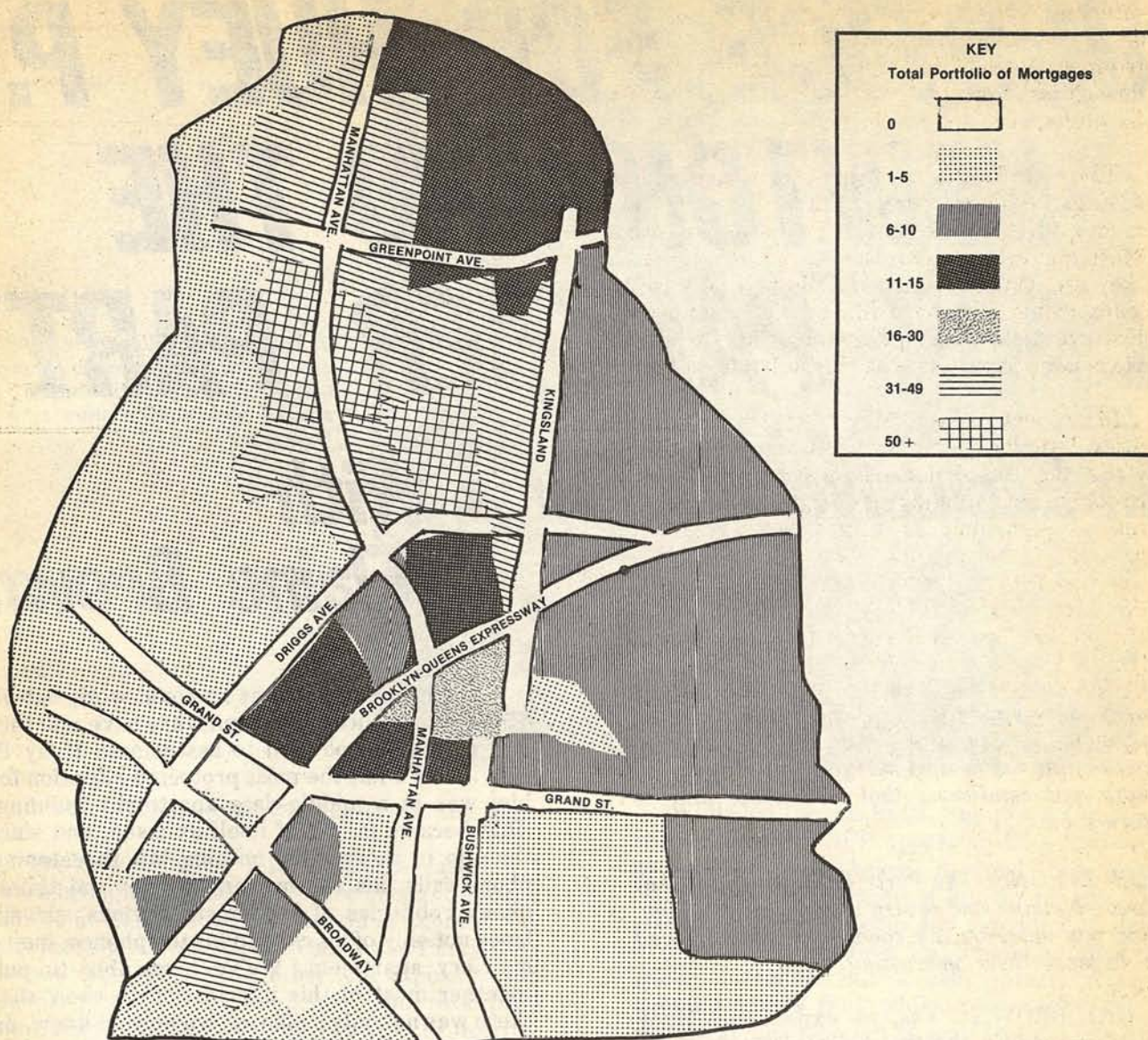


Brooklyn by channeling mortgage money to those neighborhoods that are predominantly White."

The White areas of Greenpoint and Williamsburg didn't fare much better. Only one bank out of the seven issued mortgages in the Greenpoint/Williamsburg area in 1975.

Banks within Greenpoint/Williamsburg also prefer areas within their own district. A study by local community groups of lending practices in Community Planning District #1 revealed that areas within blocks of each other can be as different as night and day. Map B illustrates all mortgages held in Planning District #1 by Greenpoint Savings, Williamsburg Savings, Sunnyside Savings, Dime Savings, Anchor Savings, Lincoln Savings, Manufacturers Hanover, and Chemical and Bankers Trust. The predominantly Latino areas of Williamsburg have fared the worst. It is interesting to note that Polish Northside and Italian Williamsburg aren't doing much better.

Of the nine banks surveyed, there was a total of 781 mortgages held between them. Greenpoint



alone held 614 of these. Most of the other banks were pathetic. Williamsburg had a total of 29; Sunnyside-22; Lincoln-44 and Anchor had 41. What these figures represent is what areas have been redlined for many years. An analysis of last year's figures reveals that the areas redlined are larger now than they have been. Much of the area north of Greenpoint Ave. is also subject to redlining.

The banks claim they are going where they can make the most on their investments. This explanation in fact has no foundation. Banks such as Greenpoint that have to a limited extent invested in areas spurned by other banks, have shown no greater losses.

The effects of redlining are disastrous. In poor Black, Puerto Rican and White communities, redlining prevents any serious attempt at stabilizing a community and bringing it up to

decent conditions. Neighborhoods that have been stable begin to break down. Younger people leave because they can't get mortgages, older people when they die are not replaced with new mortgage holders. The small landlord is driven from the community and in comes the big slumlords who finish off a neighborhood. While some believe that it is Blacks, Latinos and "people on welfare" that destroy communities, it is becoming clear that much larger and more powerful forces are behind the destruction of communities.

Public pressure has helped to pass recent legislation which forces banks to disclose mortgage loan data. A growing grass roots movement is now seeking to eliminate redlining altogether and force banks to reinvest in the neighborhoods. □

# **JUSTICE FOR HUEY P. NEWTON AND THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY**

## **An Exclusive Interview With Elaine Brown**

*In the following exclusive interview, Elaine Brown, chairperson of the Black Panther Party, describes the conditions that forced Huey P. Newton into exile several years ago and the events and conditions that will allow him to return soon.*

**KEEP STRONG:** *The Party has announced that Huey P. Newton will return to this country soon. Could you describe the conditions which forced him to leave three years ago?*

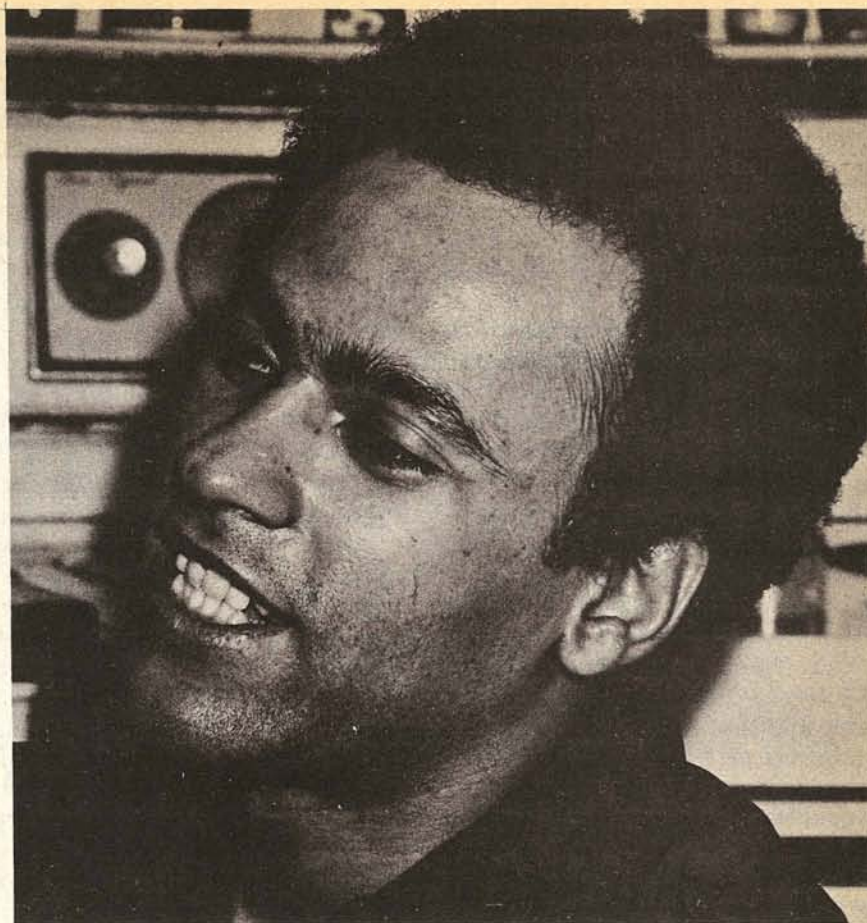
**ELAINE BROWN:** "Yes, we expect that Huey will be returning shortly. Approximately three years ago there were a number of legal cases that culminated in the same period in or around August, 1974. There were two charges and then a third murder charge which was completely trumped up. It has taken a long time to uncover the conspiracy that it involved. Those three cases, added to the fact that there was a contract out on Huey's life as the leader of the Party by some so-called 'businessmen' who were doing illegal activities, meant that Huey P. Newton was a certain subject of assassination by a variety of reactionary forces. This caused us to make the decision that it was best that he not be available for a period of time because we think that it's necessary to protect the leadership of the people's movement. Particularly as the BPP we felt it was necessary to protect our own leaders.

"When he got out of jail in 1970, when there was a reversal in the case that brought about the 'Free Huey' movement, he took an apartment. We made a decision about where he should live. Knowing the difficulties, we felt that he should

live in a decent place that he could work out of. There were police agents and what have you that would only be too glad to assassinate Huey P. Newton. We felt the most protected situation for him was in a middle-class apartment building. That became in and of itself an issue, and since then on in there were nothing but threatening phone calls, his car broken into several times, phony robberies of his house, obvious surveillance not only of his car and his telephones, but of his very apartment. We've been able to pull together most of this information to show that there was not only a plan, as we now all know, on the part of the FBI and the CIA and other law enforcement and federal agencies, to destroy and discredit the BPP, but even more specifically that plan seemingly and obviously called for the elimination or assassination of Huey P. Newton.

"The only real 'difficulty' in the plan was that it seemed as though they — they being this very nebulous group of agents and their lackeys — had to figure out a way for it to be acceptable to the people. Consequently, we have phony robberies, contracts being put out, different kinds of underworld action against him and nebulous statements coming out on the street about the Party and particularly about the leader of our Party. All of these conditions finally culminated to a pitch around August of 1974. It was absurd to continue to stay in this country and remain available as open prey to any little creep hit-man that somebody could influence, that any policeman could arbitrarily hire indirectly; or to become the next target of the various plots that have killed a variety of leaders, not only in the Black community, but of the people's movement.

"The founding of the Party and its development and ability to sustain has been one of the most binding contributions that Huey P. Newton has made."



So we feel that decision was correct at the time.

"We now know for a fact that the cases that were brought against Huey were brought against him to be discrediting just in and of themselves. His leaving was an effort to allow the Party time to pull the real facts together and expose to the people exactly what happened, and to expose that these charges were an attempt to destroy our Party and its leadership. So I think the decision for him to leave at the time was a wise decision, and I certainly know that the decision for him to return at this time is a wise decision."

*KS: What would you say has been Huey P. Newton's main contribution to the struggle of oppressed people to date?*

ELAINE BROWN: "Well, I think that his main contribution obviously was the founding and forming of the BPP, which became more than just the vanguard of revolution in this country as it was in earlier stages and as I would objectively say it is today. Forming the Party and founding the Party was a singly dynamic, historic contribution because the Party became an answer. It provided an answer as it provided hope for an answer to the sufferings of Black and ultimately of all poor and working people in this country.

"While, on the one hand, the press and media was making the BPP appear to be a variety of evil things, nevertheless, it stood there firmly committed to the cause of human beings. That was not only courageous and provided an image of dignity that had been lost among an apathetic mass of people, but it also spread ideas in people's minds that while they might not be willing at this moment to leap to fight the good fight, they would realize that there was a fight and that there was a possibility that we could win this fight. And still, the Party serves that role. Further, the formation of the Party, the actual structuring of the Party in allowing for it to develop and flourish as it has, to have sustained every kind of attack, is part of that contribution.

"There have been, of course, the internal struggles. There have been the external attacks. There have been just myriad accounts of events that could be outlined, that would have sent any organization or ought to have sent any other organization into abandonment. Nevertheless, the Party, because of the wise leadership of Huey Newton, sustained that. Therefore, even though today the Party's not as apparent on the front pages of America's press reports, it stands not only as a survivor of the '60's, but it stands with its principles intact and with its cadres firmly entrenched and having weathered all of the

battles, therefore, being very fine revolutionaries. The founding of the Party and its development and ability to sustain has been one of the most binding contributions that Huey P. Newton has made.

"The BPP has shown and has demonstrated a progressive example in everything from our newspaper to the various programs that we operate, and in many cases with our very lives. Not only have we demonstrated that there are inconsistencies and wrongdoings on the part of those to whom we have entrusted our lives, but also the Party has exemplified a progressive attitude towards human relations that people can observe themselves. The very fact that the number of women that exist in the Party in a leadership capacity is an example that the Party is certainly one of the few progressive organizations which has taken a leadership role in demonstrating the role of women and the equal part that women must play in the revolution. That's a very important example that the Party has set, and that came about as a direct result of the efforts of Huey P. Newton to change backward ideas and to promote within the Party the equality between men and women.

"There are other contributions that Huey has made to the struggle of human beings: through his various writings that have reached out to so many people and given them some inspiration; the example of his fight in the courtroom; the whole concept of exhausting all legal means; and the use of the term 'trial by a jury of peers.' Those things were directly attributable to Huey P. Newton and his ideas about how he was being confined and how to live in dignity. Those are the residual contributions of having made the primary contribution of the founding of the BPP, but they ought to be noted because they are significant. When people think back on the last ten years and think of the '60's, the so-called turmoil of the '60's, most of what we say now, the phrases, the language of the revolution, has been framed by Huey P. Newton and by the BPP, being influenced and directed by Huey P. Newton. Essentially, those are some of the key contributions, and certainly the main one as I mentioned was the actual founding of the BPP.

*KS: With so many leaders of the '60's now dead or turned away from the struggle, what do you think Huey's role will be when he returns?*

ELAINE BROWN: "The question implies its own answer. He will fill the void and the vacuum that has been created by death and by the falling by the wayside, of a variety of leaders out of the '60s era which was certainly a significant era in the history of this country and probably noteworthy

in the history of our struggle. He really exists in the perfect time, space, moment as a real human being (and not some hope for someone to come along) who can fill this kind of vacuum that has been created in leadership in this country. It's not only a vacuum in the Black and progressive movement, but in the general progressive human movement in this country. For a Black, White, Chicano or otherwise, the question of leadership goes begging.

"I was reminded of the importance of what his role ought to be and probably can and will be, not long ago when I saw for another time the film, "Viva Zapata" in which Marlon Brando plays Emiliano Zapata. At one point the people are just desperate for Zapata to remain among them. He says to them that they must be strong and look at what they've already done and know that a strong people don't need a strong leader, but that a weak people do. I say that to say that in the situation that we are in today, which is the '70's, the machinations of the reactionaries are so sophisticated as to be able to allow for working and poor people to participate in their own demise and not even know that that's true. Through poverty program money, overabundance, inflated economy and a variety of other factors, it allows for the working people of this country to imagine that it's good to participate if only to get a piece of the pie. It is a time where it's not a question of apathy but a question of having succumbed.

"This exists at a very mass and massive level in this country. We need a voice that will say loudly, like the song says, 'Wake up Everybody.' Huey Newton certainly stands as one of the very few persons who could fill that role. He is a voice that is remembered. He is a voice that is clear and that stands on progressive and revolutionary principles. He has guided our Party toward the understanding that obviously this is not a struggle of Black people, but a struggle of White people and Yellow people and all those various colors of people; and a struggle of people who work at white collar jobs and blue collar jobs and people who can't find any jobs; and people who live in shacks and shanties in the southern part of the country and people who live in tenements in the northern part and even people who live in the glorified projects of southern California. The Party has long understood that all of us are tied together. We all need a voice that represents us, not one that doesn't represent us — that doesn't represent a struggle of just the southern Negro, or the northern urban ghetto dweller Black or the poor White from Tennessee or the Chicano from Arizona or California, but represents the possibility of bringing those diverse, though unified in our impoverished state, groups



Elaine Brown, Chairperson of the Black Panther Party.

of people under a single banner. That doesn't mean the banner of the BPP or of Huey P. Newton, but the banner of a revolutionary struggle. Huey exists in this time and is able, therefore, because he's here and because he understands that. It's an exquisite moment in time because it's so precise.

"We need not look for a messiah, because a messiah is not what is necessary here. Although messiah does just simply mean messenger, and perhaps Huey P. Newton is the most profound messenger who is alive and coming back home to fill that void and that gap. So occupying his chair as the leader of the BPP, I see that his role will become very much larger now. He will be able to act as that kind of focal point around which we weak people who do now need a strong leader can focus our attention. And when our army is strong and our battles are begun, then Huey P. Newton will take his appropriate place in the history of our struggle. The dynamic of history is there, and he needs only to step back into it, which is exactly what he's going to do.

*KS: What specific difficulties will face him in coming back and what will it take to allow him to operate effectively in this country?*

ELAINE BROWN: "The specific difficulties are obvious. The concrete difficulties are the legal charges that exist against him. Ultimately, we know that the laws of this country were not designed either to protect the innocent or to

serve the masses of people as they allege to do. They serve obviously the few, and they serve inanimate property and wealth. That's basically what the laws are here to do so that the question of a legal battle is more of a political question than it is a legal question.

"We would have to first enhance the rightness of the laws to accept that there is any battle in the courtroom that is worthy of being waged. The political aspect of waging the battle to the end in the courts as Fidel Castro certainly did, is as Huey used the phrase, "Exhausting all legal means." Those are the concrete difficulties he faces if it were the will of the powerful, life imprisonment. They have the machinery to effect that. They have the ability to make that a reality. The only ultimate way that we can change that would be to become the powerful that we really are.

"Very concretely then, we are faced with a machinery that has already been hell bent against the destruction of Huey P. Newton and any Huey P. Newtons that might be on the horizon. They have the guns and equipment to back up their phony legal argument. The legal arguments, then, must be thought of at that level, since we have not the guns nor the equipment nor the army to fight the battle any other way.

So that concretely, Huey and therefore our Party is faced with legal charges which we believe will be proven false. More specifically, rumors have spread widely across this country, that he was involved in such a heinous crime, and that is the murder charge that he now faces. Beyond the fact that none of us, including Huey, had ever heard of the woman who was the victim of this shooting, we will prove when he comes back that Huey P. Newton never committed such a crime or act. More importantly, we don't think that at this time there will be the ability for a case to even be brought to trial. So it's only that it has taken us three years to uncover what's been covered up so well. We all should be familiar at this point with the ability of this country to cover up facts. But we hope to uncover what was covered up, and that charge is part of the real conspiracy to totally discredit and destroy Huey P. Newton.

"As for the charge involving a so-called tailor, we believe that if, in fact, that case comes to the point of trial, which is at this point under question, we will show that this tailor was certainly something other than a tailor, and, in fact, acted as a provocateur. While we know and it is no secret that a fight took place between Huey Newton and this alleged tailor, the facts of

Huey P. Newton addressing supporters after his release from prison in 1970.



that fight have not been brought out, and we certainly will bring them out as soon as he returns.

"Lastly, the ridiculous charge of assaulting a police officer, boils down to a member of the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms division of the Treasury Department having led a band of local Oakland police officers to assault Huey Newton in a local restaurant. This, of course, is the typical kind of charge Panthers get. We think that the formal charge will probably have to be dropped in light of what we will certainly bring out about why there was a member of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms division of the Treasury Department hanging out in a local Oakland restaurant with nothing better to do than what he did on that night, and that was to attack and assault Huey Newton.

"I don't think it would be wise for the government to bring that case out, especially in light of the fact that most recently last week while the various agencies against whom our Party filed a federal lawsuit for \$100 million in damages for everything from murder to the destruction of our newspaper; those defendants in that case pressed for a motion to dismiss on the basis that we were late in filing. In other words, if acts occurred in 1968 or '69 or '70 or what have you, they were so old that the statute had run on them. There was no point in talking about them and why we didn't file earlier. Their motion to

dismiss after our attorneys argued with very concrete and very good points was turned down, so that the case will continue.

"We have been given a date of September 15, by which time we are ordered by the court to get depositions from all of the defendants, which is absurd. However, we will do a major job of deposing some of the more key figures — the Clarence Kelleys and the John Mitchells, and what have you. These interviews or depositions will bring out very specific information that will lend in a timely fashion to providing the basis for our claim that all of the charges against Huey P. Newton are part of and were part of the government conspiracy to get rid of him, to destroy him, kill him or to discredit him, so that he would be isolated.

"So with all these things coming together in this same general time period, we think that those are some of the difficulties. As far as how he will be able to be effective in a leadership role, we think that what we're going to be able to bring out in this next couple of months, about government conspiracy, is going to be so powerful and shocking that the people of this country, and especially the more progressive elements in this country, will begin to see the wisdom and the vision and the understanding that Huey P. Newton has provided in his leadership role in the Party. Therefore, he will be able to be extremely effective." □

# INTERCOMMUNAL SURVIVAL COMMITTEE

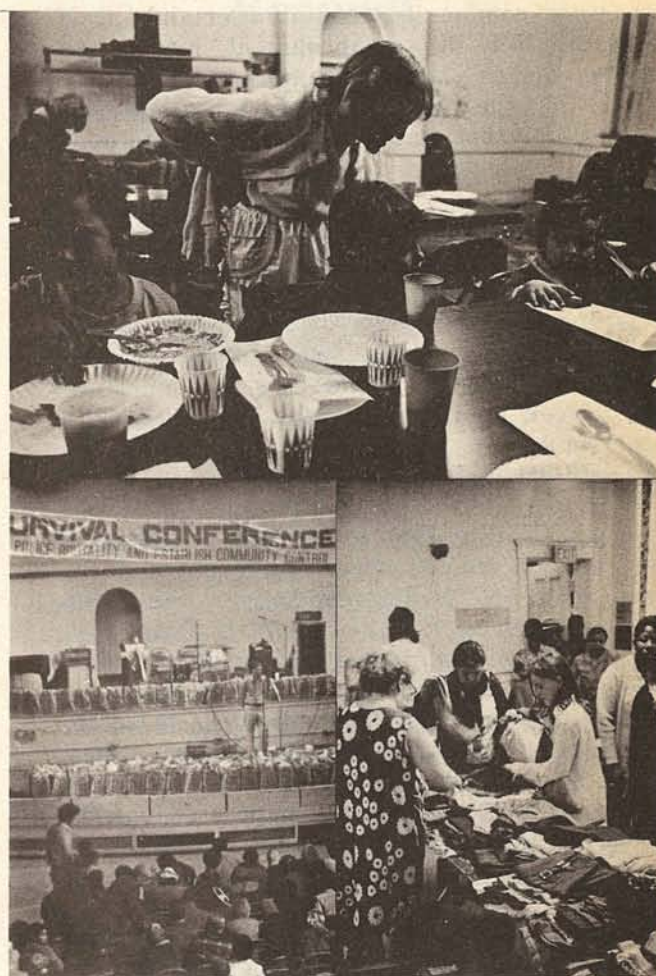
## SERVING THE OPPRESSED WHITE COMMUNITY BODY AND SOUL

### *A Program For Survival*

The Intercommunal Survival Committee was founded in Chicago to complement the program of the Black Panther Party by developing a structured political vehicle to serve the interest of the poor and oppressed White community. Following the example of the Party, the ISC worked to develop survival programs, understanding as Huey P. Newton says that, "These programs satisfy the deep needs of the community but they are not solutions to our problems. That is why we call them survival programs, meaning survival pending revolution."

The "Program for Survival" of the Intercommunal Survival Committee (ISC) includes: the Each One Teach One Program; the Tenants Survival Union; Food Cooperatives; the Black Lung Association; a Legal Defense and Education Program; the Chicago 21 Coalition and the Intercommunal News Service. Along the way, other programs such as the Free Breakfast for Children Program, the People's Free Health Clinic and the Free Food and Clothing Program were carried out to meet specific needs at specific times.

None of these programs sprung from thin air. Instead, day-to-day struggles to cope with survival in the oppressed White community brought them about and the will and necessities of the community made them successful. Slowly the power structure's own vicious program for destruction and exploitation was exposed as our own struggle for survival became organized and systematic and came head to head with the city.



The program for survival has included along the way the Free Breakfast for Children Program and the Free Food and Clothing Program.

## **"Review The Events Of The Day And Interpret Them In A Manner Which Serves The People."**

We are subjected daily to the television, radio, movies, newspaper advertising — all of which interpret what is true and what is important about our lives. But this interpretation comes from the rich and powerful, and reflects *their* point of view. Central to their point of view is that our problems are not important, our indictments of the system are untrue and, of course, that racism is an accepted fact of life.

THE BLACK PANTHER Newspaper for over 10 years has challenged their point of view, giving people a chance to see their own conditions reflected and to clarify strategies for survival. It is a vital program for the survival of our minds and methods of struggle.

The question was: will White people in the oppressed community read it? Certainly it is relevant. But the establishment media had conducted such a massive campaign to convince people that the BPP was solely a "hate-White" organization that many might not want to even look at the paper.

The proof is in the practice. While few businesses in the community would carry the paper, street sales went surprisingly well. Face to face with a White person selling the paper, many White people decided to check it out. Sometimes someone would pass up the paper every week for a few months, but eventually most wanted to see for themselves about the "Black Panthers."

As street sales began to increase, we initiated a system of home delivery. By knocking on doors we found people who agreed to have the paper delivered each week to their home. In some cases this caused neighbors to attack them. In a very few cases violent incidents occurred, but these were mostly provoked by the political machine, the police or groups like the KKK. In fact, when people began to read the paper and see that it was relevant to all poor and oppressed people, few could be intimidated or embarrassed out of taking it.

What do White people find of interest in THE BLACK PANTHER Newspaper? It was a revelation to find out that the BPP was an organization concretely concerned and active in the survival of poor and working people. Racism



**For White people it was a revelation to find out that the BPP was an organization concretely concerned and active in the survival of poor and working people.**

and prejudice slowly takes a back seat to understanding. The poor White faces many kinds of discrimination and can grasp the wholesale and vicious effect of racism on the lives of Black people when it is told in the words of Black people themselves.

And then, too, the newspaper explained examples of struggle and survival information that could be directly and immediately applied. Most of all, the newspaper "put the blame where it belonged," and reported on the growing common struggle for justice in communities all over the world. All of a sudden our day-to-day struggle in the oppressed White community was part of a larger and more powerful movement. This information had been kept from our community, and information is power.

### **Home Delivery System**

The home delivery system allowed the ISC to have consistent contact with hundreds of families every week. We learned of problems and solutions to them that people were attempting. It was from this process that we were able to develop survival programs that fitted the concrete realities of our community.

As time went on, *KEEP STRONG* magazine was developed. While paying attention to significant events in the Black and Latino

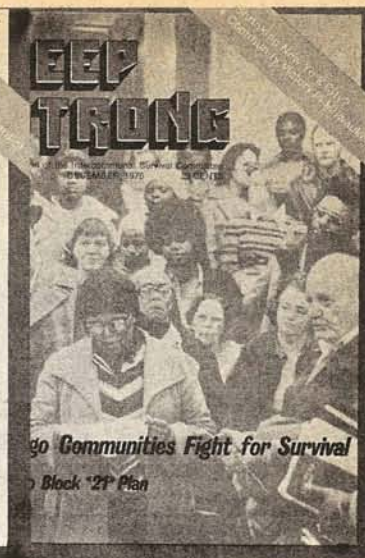
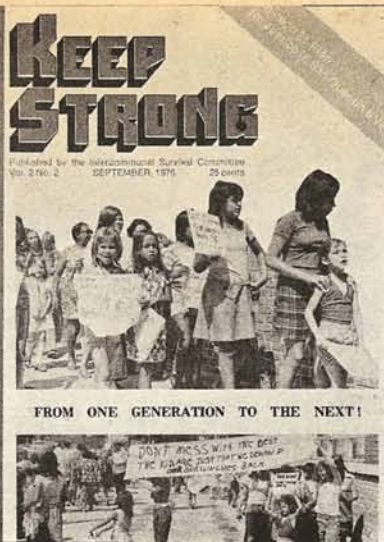


The purpose of the magazine was to give validity to our people's day-to-day struggle for survival.

community, and in communities of oppressed people around the world, the magazine focused in our own community, complementing THE BLACK PANTHER Newspaper. It was the magazine's purpose to give validity to our own people's day-to-day struggle for survival.

The mother whose baby dies from lack of medical care or the ex-miner dying of black lung do not see their stories in *Time* or *People* magazine. But they are more important stories for us to reflect on and to unify about than stories about Charles Manson or Patricia Hearst. And the magazine reflects the lessons of the communities' struggles for decent housing, health care, education, jobs and other basic necessities.

The distribution of THE BLACK PANTHER *Intercommunal News Service* and *KEEP STRONG* magazine helped spread the organization of the other survival programs and helped to build a network of people, an "infrastructure," that is developing the unity and knowledge necessary to take on those who make our survival a constant struggle.



## "The Oppressed Have No Rights The Oppressor Is Bound To Respect"

The ISC Legal Education and Defense Program works to provide lawyers and investigators for both criminal and civil cases free of charge or at reasonable prices. The program also provides knowledgeable advocates to assist people in problems with public aid and social security. Periodically legal education programs are presented, carefully explaining both people's rights and the concrete realities of survival in the courts and other bureaucracies. Free transportation is provided for the loved ones of those in prison for much needed visits.

Especially in the poor and working White community, we tend to accept our own guilt. If the rich and powerful, the established authority, the educated, are convinced of our guilt or our ineligibility to receive benefits, "then surely they must be correct." We are shamed into submission. At the same time, we, more than anyone else, know the facts of our innocence or our eligibility and are acutely conscious that justice in this country is a business with us — the victims — as both the raw material and the final product, and that welfare is a means of social control to be accomplished as cheaply as possible. It is a contradiction we usually live and suffer with.

The Legal Education and Defense Program aims to resolve this contradiction, transforming shame into indignation and gut feeling into informed action, while providing assistance that leads to concrete results.



Through close day-to-day work on hundreds of welfare cases the program exposes illegal and unjust practices of the bureaucracy.

## Organizing Information And Resources

The program trains community residents to work as legal assistants in the courts and investigators in the community, under the direction of competent staff. Much of the expense of a good defense goes toward pre-trial investigation, gathering evidence and getting statements. If you do not have the money, your lawyer — if you can afford one at all — does little more than attempt to use legal technicalities in your defense or plead you guilty to a lesser charge. Righteous suits seeking damages are often lost in a similar way. By organizing lawyers and doing the investigative and clerical work for them, the program can provide a more adequate defense for a cheaper price. The program's legal staff, because it deals seriously with so many cases in the oppressed community, often consulting several lawyers for advice, develops its own legal expertise and can make important suggestions to the lawyers in each case. The ISC has organized a community law office in addition to developing a network of lawyers in the city willing to take cases through the program.

In recent years welfare rights organizations have been foiled by the "streamlining" of public aid and social security regulations. In fact, there is a concerted effort and continuing bag of tricks employed to refuse or cut off eligible recipients. The program staff and volunteers study the regulations manual each month, informing people of their rights and going to the office to fight along side of them. In addition, work is done to educate and organize caseworkers and to gain access to the top of the bureaucracy utilizing law suits and political leverage. Close day-to-day work on hundreds of cases each month also

allows the program to learn of and expose illegal and unjust practices which these bureaucracies are constantly engaging in.

## "A Structure For Resistance"

Originally many individual legal and welfare problems came in through the "home delivery" routes of THE BLACK PANTHER Newspaper and *KEEP STRONG* magazine. When we began to respond effectively, the city's powerful political machine began to compete with us to provide services. This benefited the people, but it also exposed the Chicago power structure's hold on the community.

Highly paid precinct captains and other patronage workers, with the full weight of the city behind them, used their access to lawyers, judges and public aid offices to insure that people voted the "right way." They threatened to cut people off welfare if they voted against the machine candidates. On the other hand, they handed out favors in the courts and the welfare offices to a chosen few, on condition that they help keep the community in line.

This life or death survival control kept the people under the heel, re-electing time after time a city government whose main interest is to short change them in services and actually to drive them from their neighborhoods. The Legal Education and Defense Program, therefore, begins to provide an alternative backup for those willing to resist the control of an oppressive political system.

## "Each One Teach One"

The new Each One Teach One Program initiated at the Uptown People's Community Service Center is, above all else, "a survival program for the minds of our youth." Our children lose their desire to learn at a very early age in the public school system. Consequently there are many children who graduate from grade school unable to read at all and have no vehicle to regain the precious thirst for knowledge they once had.

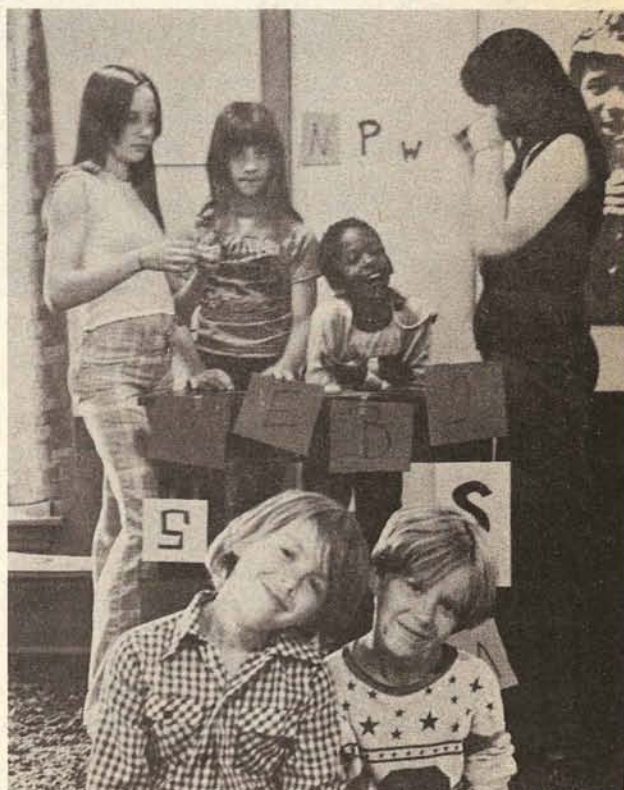
While the school budgets in the poor and oppressed communities are being cut more and more, the school system continues to exclude parent and community participation in the education of the children. This new model program involves parents, older brothers and sisters, community volunteers, unemployed teachers and the children, who are between the ages of 6 and 9, and includes consultation with the children's overworked teachers in the schools.

The first Each One Teach One club is already in full swing involving 12 children, four aides ages 13 to 16, two community volunteers, an accredited teacher and daily participation on a rotating basis by the parents of the children. Perhaps most exciting about the after-school and Saturdays program is the program organizers' determination to develop hundreds of other clubs throughout the city based on the model already established.



Taking the educational theme from the Black Panther Party's model Oakland Community School, along with other teaching techniques, the goal of the program is not so much to teach the children "what to think," as "how to think." Through an innovative and caring approach to learning that can stress individual attention simply because it mobilizes the human resources of the community, it is the hope of the program to help the children approach problems analytically and with the skills they will need to function in this highly technological society.

Although the major focus of the program is to assist the children in their reading, writing and math skills, it sees "that the world is their classroom" and so provides the children with a wide range of experiences. They are involved in weekly recreational activities and weekly field





trips to all parts of the city and surrounding areas as well as art classes and individual tutoring in basic skills.

According to the Each One Teach One volunteers, the teenage teacher aides are essential to the success of the program because the younger children often learn faster from someone closer to their own age. The participation of different parents in the program has provided the best insights into how particular children learn most quickly and is crucial to keeping the program in line with the children's real needs.

Constant communication between the parents, the staff of the Each One Teach One Program and the teachers in the public schools is maintained so that there is an understanding of what the children are learning and a continuity between the schools and the program. Each day of the program, the children are served a snack upon their arrival and a hot, nutritious meal just before they go home. If a child is going to learn, it is pointed out, his or her physical needs must be of primary concern.

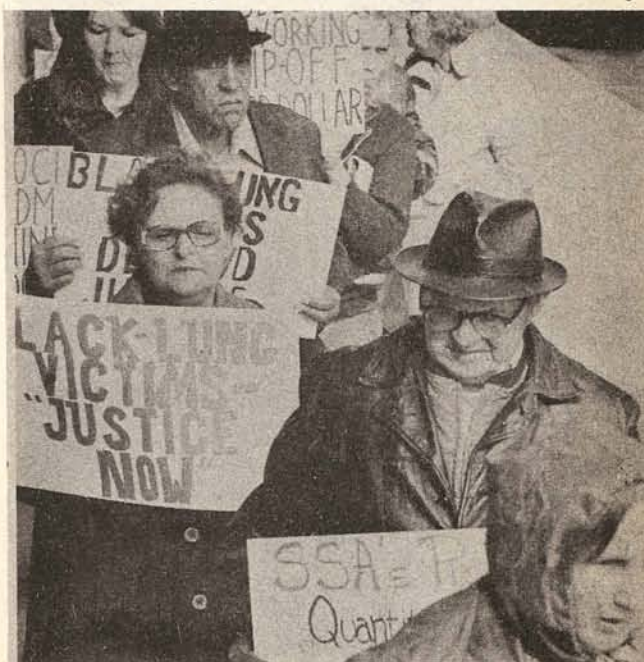
One of the most important aspects of the program is that the children are given an opportunity to learn in an atmosphere which promotes love, respect, cooperation and collective development among all participants in the program. Each person, young and old alike, is responsible for each other's development. The model we are talking about becomes a reality when it is practiced through the program and far beyond, into the everyday lives of the children and the community. As one parent put it, "When the community sees that these kinds of educational advantages are possible in their community, then they will fight to get them for everyone."

## "When They Were Done With Us, They Just Threw Us Away"

The Black Panther Party had set an example of seeking and relating to the deepest needs of oppressed people. Utilizing a parallel approach, the ISC worked in the poor and working White communities. Just as the Party uncovered and made the disease of Sickle Cell Anemia a national issue, we found that the community was beset with diseases that affect mainly poor and working people and so do not concern the system. Polio and cancer affect everyone including the rich and so billions of dollars are spent seeking cures and treatments. But diseases like Sickle Cell Anemia or black lung do not affect the children of the Rockefellers so only a few pennies are thrown their way. Even the doctors are ignorant because of their lack of training in dealing with these "poor people's diseases."

The Chicago Area Black Lung Association began when several ex-miners and widows working with the ISC survival programs explained the need for some kind of program. Growing quickly among the many ex-miners and their families in Chicago's Uptown, the Association began to fight for benefits for its members.

Important victories had been won in the later sixties and again in the early seventies by massive strikes, protests and demonstrations carried out by the miners themselves. They



CABLA members picket at Social Security office in Chicago.

brought to the attention of the nation that black lung disease, caused by unsafe levels of dust in the mines, affects almost all men who worked in the mines that provide coal for the entire country. No research had been done to find a cure for the fatal disease, and the greedy coal operators showed no desire to lessen their profits by spending money to make the mines safe.

Bills were passed in Congress, because of the miners' powerful actions, but a few years later the coal companies' influence in the government turned the bureaucracies against the miners. It became almost impossible to get benefits. A thousand technicalities, forms, delays and "catch 22's" were put in the way of the claimants. Conditions in the mines remain almost the same.

Especially in cities like Chicago, where thousands of miners had been driven from the south to survive, the situation was critical. No union or associations of miners were there to fight the bureaucracy.

The Chicago Area Black Lung Association moved with ISC staff and association volunteers to attack the problem. A powerful group was organized that came to be recognized in Chicago, throughout the state and in Washington itself. Staff became more competent than the bureaucrats in the law. Congressmen were brought into the community for hearings. Lawyers were provided for claimants. Doctors were organized



to learn about the disease and to provide medical testimony for the claimants, providing an alternative to the coal company-controlled "certified" health officers. Funds were raised through community events to send people to meet with the heads of the bureaucracies and to testify before Congress. Some changes began to happen in this highly desperate situation.

The Association also has become a force in the community, unifying hundreds of families, first driven from the south and now being driven from the communities of Chicago. Mutual assistance programs — low cost food, free home medical



**CABLA has taken a leading role in fighting for decent health care for the entire community. Above, members speak at press conference demanding a county clinic for Uptown.**

visits by doctors and free transportation — were developed. The Association participated in cultural events like the monthly "Country Music Sunday" at the Uptown People's Community Service Center that further unified the community.



**Congressmen were brought into the community for hearings [left] while doctors were organized to work with black lung. [above]**

Finally, the Association has taken a leading role in fighting for decent health care for the entire community. In specific, they are fighting the city Board of Health's determination to keep Cook County Hospital from establishing a family health clinic in the neighborhood. The Association believes and has shown that the city's only reason for keeping out the clinic is its "masterplan" intention to drive the low-income community in need of the clinic from the neighborhood.

## **"We Want Decent Housing, Fit For The Shelter Of Human Beings"**

Over the last two years the ISC has helped to organize the 2,000 member Uptown Tenants' Survival Union. Staff trained in tenants' rights as well as other attorneys are available to the members. Regular public programs explain different aspects of tenants' rights, and of course the union exists to bring full weight and resources of its members on the fight for each tenant's rights.

Besides its concern for tenants' rights, the tenants union membership is eligible to participate in the cooperative food buying club. Each week hundreds of families pool their orders for seven or eight staple items like potatoes, vegetables, chickens, eggs, fruits and canned goods to benefit from the savings that are possible by buying in bulk from a wholesaler. The Food Co-op also takes into account that "the check don't come in when the babies are hungry" and allows families whose income comes in once a month or once every two weeks to pay for the month's groceries when their check comes in.

The UTSU differs from many tenants organizations across the country in that it has collectivized the rich experience of tenants fighting for housing in communities threatened by planned destruction, urban renewal and speculators out to make a fast buck in the meantime. The key is to analyze the situation of the landlord and develop an appropriate response.

The small landlord who lives in the building or perhaps owns only one or two buildings in the



**This is the fate for too many buildings. The tenants union has developed creative approaches to respond to the landlords.**



**Besides its concern for tenant's rights, the union membership may participate in the cooperative food buying club.**

community is not in the same category as the larger slumlord. He is as much threatened by the developers and speculators as the tenants are and will be pressured ruthlessly by the city in order to drive him out. When he loses the building, the tenants also lose their homes because the building is torn down, milked dry, burned for profit or "rehabilitated" and put up for very expensive rents.

In the cases of these small landlords the tenants union has organized tenants clubs, fought with the landlord to stave off the city, to get rehabilitation money or leasing program "section 8" money and demanded in return that the rent money be put back into the building. In the process, the tenants get some control in the management of the building and save their homes.

A second type of landlord does not live in the community, only owns one or two buildings and knows little or nothing about managing the building. An organized building club makes demands for the improvement of the building and takes over the management. A first step has often been to keep the utilities on by the union dealing directly with the utilities company and setting up a payment schedule out of the rent money.

The third type of landlord is the slumlord. On a ten unit building a slumlord may take in \$12,000 or \$13,000 a year in rent and put nothing back into the building, allowing utility bills to build up and not even paying taxes. When the building is to the point of being condemned, it is burned for the insurance or sold to land speculators.

In this third case, the tenants union goes into court to take legal possession of the building. The slumlord often hides behind fronts and is difficult

## "Self-determination, Unity and Resistance"

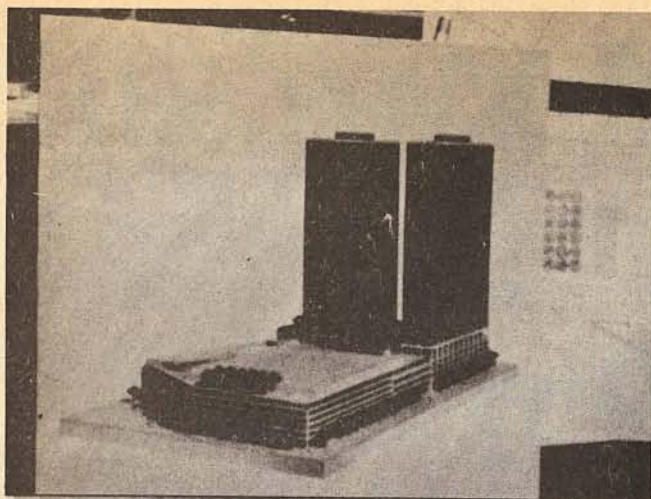
The Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan and for Jobs, Housing, Education and Justice is a broad city-wide structure of powerful forces from the Black, Puerto Rican, Mexicano and poor and working White communities. From the point of view of the participation of the ISC, it is the end result of the hard work of the other survival programs, the wisdom and courage of many grassroots community struggles and the vision of slain Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton. It is in itself one of our most important survival programs.

The day-to-day functioning of the survival programs uncovered countless issues of community concern over the last seven years. Weekly "Community Forums" provided a structure to discuss those issues and develop plans of actions. Community action was taken around issues from the glue-sniffing epidemic destroying countless young minds to exposing and stopping exploitative and gangster-like activities of profit-oriented "medical plans." Through the community survival apparatus significant effects were made on poverty program, city council and mayoral campaigns. All of these community campaigns, utilizing the survival apparatus to protect the interest of the community, helped to develop the concept of the Anti-Chicago 21 Coalition.

Threatened by Black and poor majority rule in the centers of finance, trade and business in the country, the power structure that controls the cities determined to move the poor and oppressed communities out, replacing them with white collar members of the middle class. Poor and working people would be put out in small,



Community action was taken on a glue sniffing epidemic destroying countless minds.



The UTSU legal staff headed by Atty. James Chapman has successfully tied up developer Bill Thompson's upper-income housing development [model above] in court.

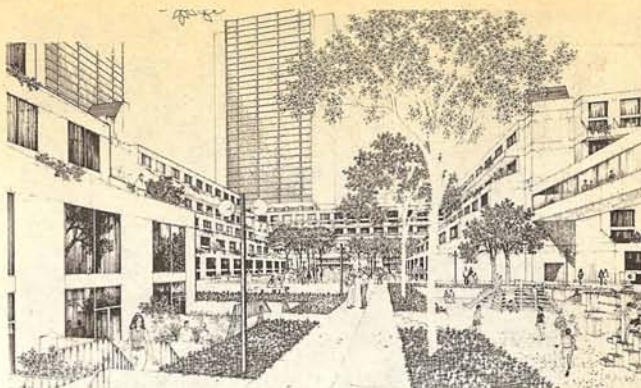
to get to in court. Sometimes a group of partners pass the building from one to the other to avoid prosecution and fines. The UTSU legal staff has devised new legal theories, utilizing conspiracy law, and is successfully challenging the slumlords for control of their buildings.

A fourth menace to decent housing is the developer who hopes to replace low-income housing with middle and upper-income housing. In one case, when Mayor Daley's son-in-law Bill Thompson tore down blocks of low-income housing, the union mobilized its forces at the zoning hearing and then filed suit, successfully tying Thompson up in the courts for several years and bringing him to the bargaining table. The Union believes that a developer must provide an equal amount of low-income housing for what he destroys or his development must be stopped.

Tenants union members, coming in because of specific problems they have, gain an understanding of the overall city-wide problem with housing, and the Union has become a vital and important force in the city on a wide range of issues.



Representatives of Anti-Chicago 21 Plan Coalition speak against city's masterplan [left]. Artists rendition of part of Chicago's plan for the 21st century [right].



dispersed, powerless pockets of poverty to serve as unorganized cheap labor or as the unemployed used to threaten the workers who have jobs. The plan provided for no human relocation, and, by pushing out Black and poor people from their "urban renewed" neighborhoods into already overcrowded White working class neighborhoods, the plan planted the seeds of race war.

Fred Hampton, Illinois Chairman of the Black Panther Party, had envisioned and begun to develop an extraordinary coalition of forces from the Black, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Native American and poor and working White communities. His assassination on December 4, 1969, halted the movement, but the principles of the coalition, built on self-determination in each

community and unity between all, lived on. These principles became the basis of the Anti-Chicago 21 Plan Coalition as community organizations throughout the city learned through bitter experience of the existence of a masterplan and the need for a vehicle for unity.

Besides centralizing information and bringing the full force of a city-wide movement to each community struggle, the Coalition acts to go to the root of many of our problems. The Coalition is successfully attacking the city's use of public money to implement the "Plan for Chicago in the 21st Century" mobilizing quickly at strategic city council meetings and negotiating with federal agencies.

As a growing city-wide force, the Coalition was able, for instance, to determine the key issues in the last Chicago mayoral election and is able to make its weight felt in the city's complicated and powerful political machinery. It is a strategic coalition to challenge power, that is based in the step by step unification of our communities and the wisdom gained in countless struggles for survival. As a structured political vehicle, with a vision of resistance, the Coalition has achieved concrete results raising the strength and confidence of the oppressed communities and laying the foundation for sterner action.



Before his assassination, Fred Hampton had envisioned and begun to develop an extraordinary coalition of forces from the Black, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Native American and poor and working White communities.

## A Program For Survival

Someday we will not need and will even laugh at the survival programs created over the last seven years. We will have moved to higher levels controlling larger and larger pieces of the institutions that determine our survival. But this will depend surely on the unity, power and consciousness of oppressed people, winning not reforms but control, winning and sustaining power, and moving on for more. □

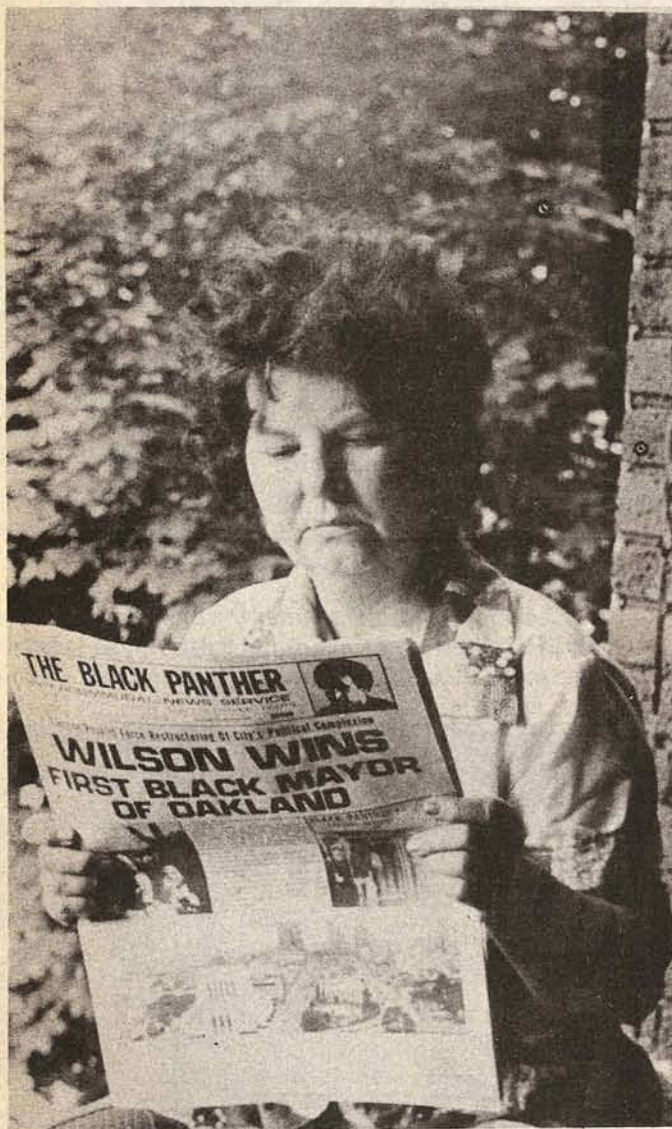
# THE BLACK PANTHER

INTERCOMMUNAL NEWS SERVICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

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25¢



The Intercommunal Survival Committee, publishers of **KEEP STRONG**, have been selling **THE BLACK PANTHER**, primarily to White people, for over 7 years now. Thousands are sold on the street, thousands more are delivered regularly to home subscribers. Articles from **THE BLACK PANTHER** are also frequently reprinted in **KEEP STRONG**. The many regular readers among poor and progressive Whites is testimony to the relevance of this fine weekly paper to all oppressed people.

Of all the many contradictions and confusions that divide poor and oppressed people, racism is probably the most vicious and most destructive to unity and power. So much of the society we live in is shaped by the way it oppresses Black and Third World people, that to understand our own situation as Whites, it is necessary also to understand the situation of Black people.

The Intercommunal Survival Committee also believes that the concrete example of the Black Panther Party, the methods of successful struggle, the implementation of many survival programs serving the community, are models from which we can learn in defending ourselves, our families and our own communities from those who would use and abuse us for their own profit.

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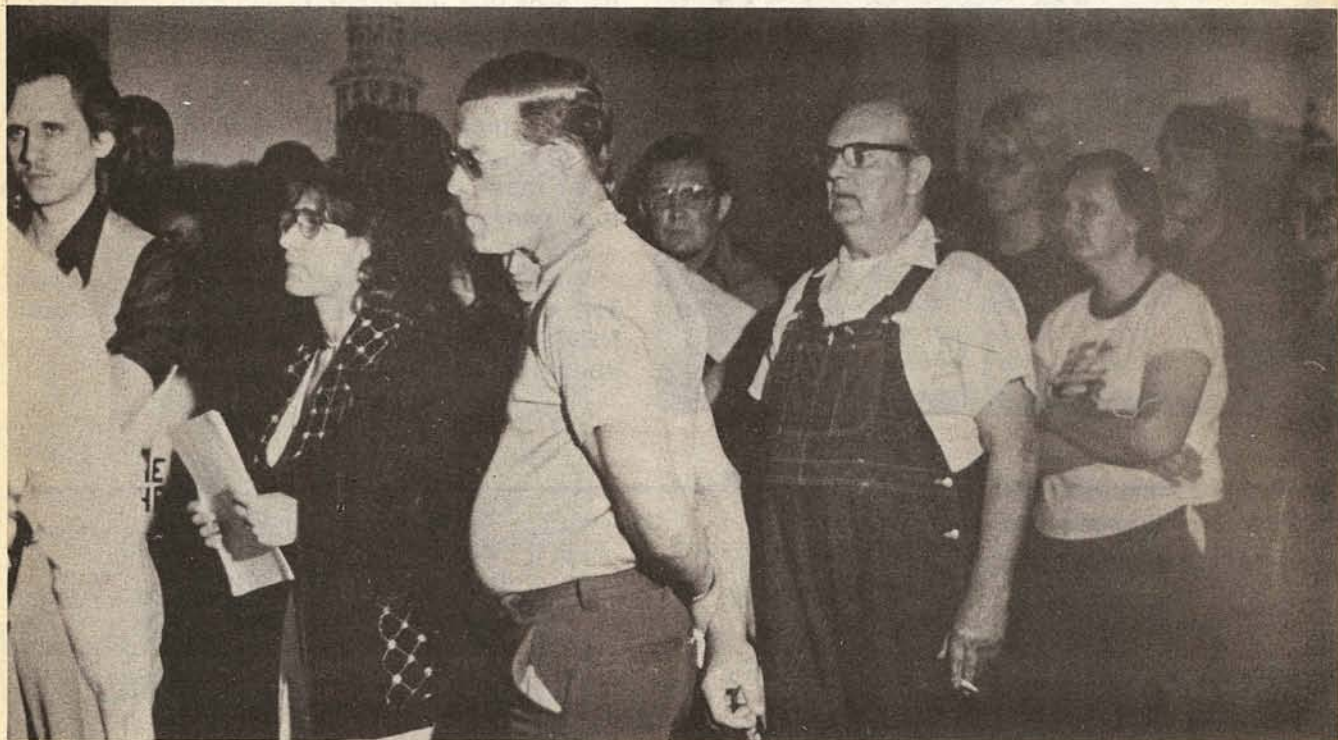
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# CHICAGO MAYOR SHUNS UPTOWN DELEGATION

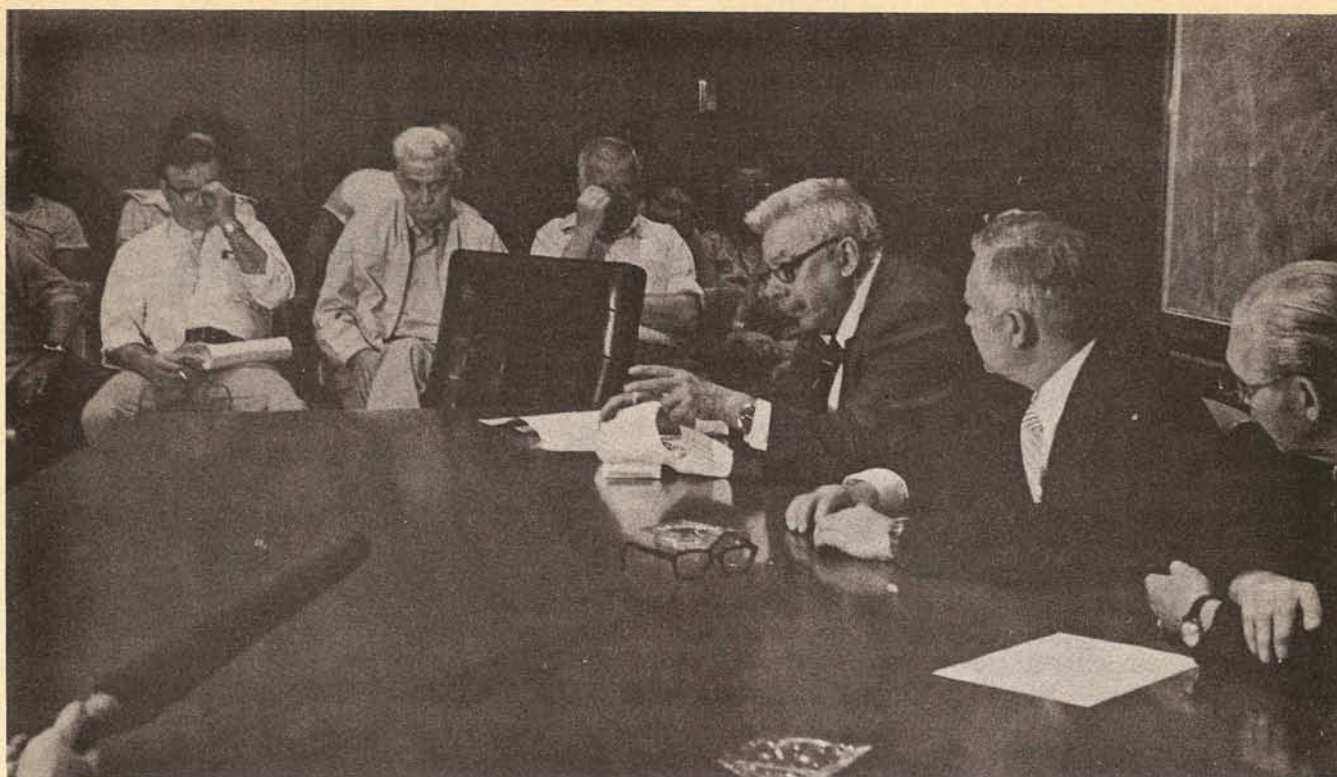
On Thursday, May 26 over 100 representatives of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, the Uptown Tenants Survival Union and the Chicago Area Black Lung Association gathered at Mayor Bilandic's office to demand that the mayor instruct his city health officials to remove their opposition to the proposed comprehensive health clinic which the county had planned to build in the Uptown community. The response of the mayor upon seeing this delegation of poor people from Uptown was to quickly run to an elevator and get out of sight. After about a 15 minute discussion with a police sergeant who had been called to the scene to

try and make the people go away, the delegation finally convinced the officials in Bilandic's office that they would not leave until they were able to deliver their statement to someone in person. Citing the past practice of the city officials in ignoring the problems of the people of Uptown, the delegation stated that only if they saw the statement being read to one of these officials could they be sure that anyone would ever hear their point of view on this problem.

Excerpts of the statement which was read to Mr. Pritchett, special administrative assistant to the mayor, follow:



Over 100 representatives of the Intercommunal Survival Committee, the Uptown Tenants Survival Union and the Chicago Area Black Lung Association demand that Acting Mayor Bilandic instruct his health officials to remove opposition to the proposed health clinic in Uptown.



A large percentage of the Uptown residents come from the coal mining areas of Appalachia. There are 750 to 1500 cases in Uptown alone of black lung, yet Murray Brown, Chicago Health Commissioner (left) says "There is no black lung in Chicago."

"We come from one of the most densely populated and racially mixed areas in the city. We are faced with many survival problems, one of the most serious being the inadequate availability of decent and comprehensive health care.

"According to the Board of Health's statistics, over 20% of our population is over 65; we are in the upper third in rates of infant mortality, lead poisoning, communicable diseases and VD. If one considers that about half of what is called Uptown is the lakefront highrises with its mostly affluent population, then, the statistics for the rest of our community become even worse. The large numbers of poor people who live in Uptown have some of the worst problems of any neighborhood in the city.

"Among these we have some very special health needs which have never been adequately addressed. A large percentage of our population being from Appalachia coal mining areas, there are an estimated 750 to 1500 cases of black lung or other related respiratory diseases in Uptown alone.

"In March of this year we learned that Cook County Hospital would consider placing a comprehensive health clinic in our community. This clinic was to have direct input from the community, was to be designed with a special

facility for black lung diagnosis and treatment and would provide badly needed jobs.

"As we became more involved in working to see this clinic become a reality, it became clear that the main obstacle was the city of Chicago's Board of Health, particularly Commissioner Brown. Brown has made such outrageous statements as 'Uptown has too much health care,' 'There is no black lung in Chicago,' and 'The opening of a new health center in Uptown would be a duplication of services.'

"The city has apparently adopted a policy to cut down on health facilities that serve Chicago's oppressed communities. One can cite the recent failure of Murray Brown to apply for \$3 million from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which with matching funds could have multiplied to as much as \$9 million; the recent attempts and discussions about closing down Cook County Hospital (the only real public health hospital facility in the county) and now the city blocking the possibility of a badly needed comprehensive health care facility in our community.

"We cannot see how public officials who should be committed to the health of the city would deny or prevent the development of facilities which can improve that health. Therefore we are asking the mayor to instruct his health official to remove opposition to this proposed clinic." □

# 1st ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR

## Milwaukee Event a Resounding Success

On Sunday, May 15, 1977 the Intercommunal Survival Committee sponsored its first annual Spring Festival and Bazaar. Over 500 people turned out to enjoy bargain hunting, delicious food and relaxing music.

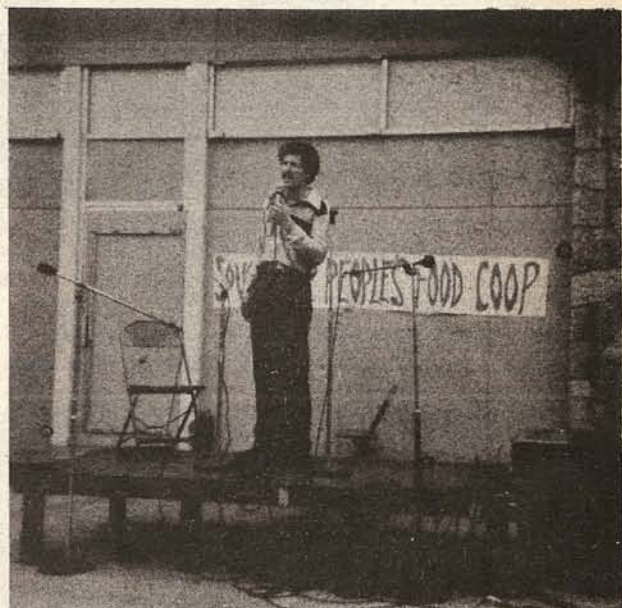
The event was a benefit for the recently initiated survival program, "The Southside People's Food Co-op." The Food Co-op is geared toward serving the poor and oppressed community with low cost, high quality food. Delivery to senior citizens and emergency free food are among the services available. The Co-op recently offered its services to the striking workers of Wisconsin Motors.

Starting at 10:00 a.m., rummage was put on the tables by a number of volunteer workers. Antiques, furniture, plants, clothing, kitchen ware and what-nots were available at reasonable prices. Delicious beer batter fried chicken dinners, with potato salad and green beans lured people to the outdoor kitchen area where they could settle their hearty appetites with the plate lunches for \$1.50. Hot dogs and soda were also sold.

Volunteers stayed up to the wee hours in the morning to prepare the chicken which was enjoyed by all that day. A table of home baked breads, cakes, cookies and sweet rolls was available for those with a sweet tooth. Co-op members baked and donated these items to sell.

To add to the spirit of the day, music was provided by country western solo artist Miles Christiansen who sang some of his original compositions. Carol Haas, Diane Knuth and Brett Kemitz put together an enjoyable set of well-balanced old tunes remembered by all.

After the music, a more serious note was



Top photo: Milwaukee ISC coordinator Richard Cohen  
Bottom: Delicious "Beer batter chicken" was served.

struck by ISC coordinator Richard (Curly) Cohen who spoke of the importance of the projected return to this country of exiled Black Panther Party leader Huey P. Newton. "You can't talk about the survival programs and not talk about Huey P. Newton. The survival programs, modeled after those of the Black Panther Party, are a vehicle for us to organize ourselves in order for us to reach the goals of a decent life and an end to the oppression by the rich and powerful in this country."

Suzanne Ruff, Co-op coordinator, explained how committees were set up to insure a smooth operation. A rummage committee was organized of volunteers who picked up and stored items donated starting a month before the event. Robert Warde, Ken Braeger and others worked enthusiastically sorting, pricing and preparing for the sale.

A diligent effort by the food committee, which included Co-op members Jackie Roginski, Roberta Braeger and Marianne Schultz along with others, solicited donations from the local small businesses and saw to the entire preparation of the food.

While the teachers' strike was going on, community worker Penny Hoover and other



Roberta Braeger (top) was one of the many community residents who worked long hours on the Festival. Bottom photo: antiques, furniture, plants, clothing were available at reasonable prices.



Top photo: Spirited entertainment was provided for the well over 500 people who attended the Festival.

Bottom photo: "The money earned will be used to provide more for the people in the community."

volunteers, set up a day of making crafts with the children of the community. Painted rocks, paper mache and the unique gifts of a child's vivid imagination were, as a result, on sale at the festival. The money received for the crafts will be put toward a field trip this summer for the youth.

The entire day was a success. Even the weather held out to see that the people of the community had an enjoyable afternoon. Co-op members and other community residents worked hard selling food, maintaining the rummage tables and cleaning up afterwards. As one young brother put it, "I never was busier a day in my life. The money earned will be used to keep the office running and to provide more for the people in the community. I was happy to dedicate a day of my life to a good cause." □

# OAKLAND—

## *City With A Backbone*

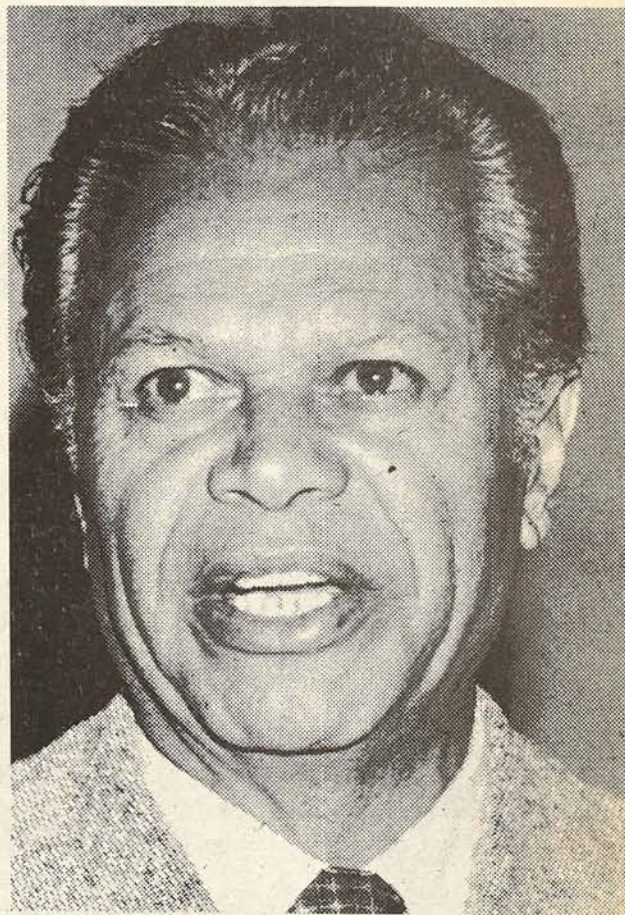
It finally happened! Riding on the crest of an overwhelming flatlands vote from Black and poor communities, Judge Lionel Wilson became the first Black mayor in Oakland's history on Tuesday, May 17, bringing a new leadership to this multi-ethnic port city — the promise of a "new day." It was, in the words of Elaine Brown, "... the first time, not only in this city but in this entire country, that people have put together a 'People's Victory.' "

Judge Wilson won by a plurality of 7.19 per cent, 53.59 per cent of the 79, 565 votes cast. It was, considering this city's historic voting patterns, a landslide margin. It was Oakland flatlands communities (the Black and poor communities) whose vote turned the tide in what had been a nip and tuck battle.

Much of the credit for this victory must go where it properly belongs, to the Black Panther Party. The Black Panther Party organized a massive "get-out-the-vote-drive" (particularly in East Oakland) which, although it only really scratched the surface of what is fully possible, proved to be the decisive margin.

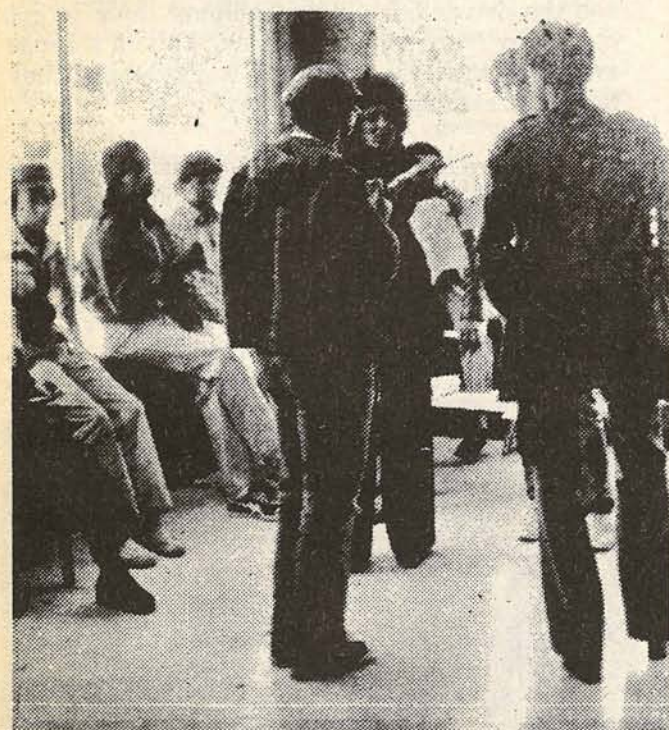
The key hours were 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., when the polls closed, but throughout the afternoon, people flocked to the Party's Central Headquarters at 8501 East 14th Street— only to be swiftly assigned to a community campaign office, where they were just as quickly sent out into an assigned precinct. An estimated 200 to 300 people, some in groups, others individually, passed through the BPP facility between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

As Elaine Brown, chairperson of the Black Panther Party— who was on hand at the headquarters throughout the long, hot afternoon and did precinct work herself— expressed the community sentiment at the victory party: "We really didn't think we could do this, but we did. I think this is the first time, not only in this city but in this entire country, that people have put



**A New Day in Oakland — Judge Lionel Wilson became the first Black mayor in Oakland's history.**

And then it was up to Judge Wilson who in his victory statement said, "I never doubted that we were going to win — and I say WE! It's not a victory for one segment of the community. I know it's been a long time coming for a lot of you, but this is a community in which we all have to live. This is a community in which we have to do things to uplift the quality of life for all the people of Oakland. There are no privileged few in my administration. I assure you that my office will always be open to you, any and all of you.



**Elaine Brown (left) talks to people coming in the BPP office to work in the massive get-out-the-vote-drive. Judge Wilson, referring to the Port of Oakland (above), said it should contribute more to the city, as a financial base and a resource for jobs.**

it alone. Just as you've been hearing at the ballot box, the way you worked out there today to bring that vote in that made the difference, you have to be known, you have to express yourselves, you have to let the City Council know what you want, what your needs are, what it takes to make this city the fantastic city it can be. We can do it."

At the morning after-the-election press conference mayor elect Wilson began to implement the far-reaching changes that many are expecting in Oakland. Referring to the Port of Oakland Wilson announced that he intends to shake up the huge semi-autonomous Port with a new leadership. This leadership, he said, would be his campaign pledge that the waterfront complex should "contribute more to the city, as a financial base and a resource for jobs. I can assure you that the Port and city will no longer be divided as they have for so many years. I intend only to appoint people to the Port Commission who have a deep sense of responsibility to the city of Oakland, who understand that the Port is part of the city of Oakland, with a function to serve the city of Oakland, and who will carry out their responsibilities with that in mind.□

"I can't promise you everything you want, but I will listen to you, and I will hear you— you will be heard, you will have an opportunity to express your needs and desires because all of us, together, we have to make this dream come true. This is only the beginning. Oakland is a beautiful city. It's a city with all kinds of opportunities if we can just get together and make those opportunities real for all of the people— for all the youth and other people who are unemployed. We've got to do something about that.

"We've got to do something about housing. We've got to do something about our neighborhoods, about our City Center. We're going to accomplish that. I've had just wonderful, fantastic support. We have to do it together. I can't do

# JOSE "PEPE" MEDINA:

## Struggle on Both Sides of the Border

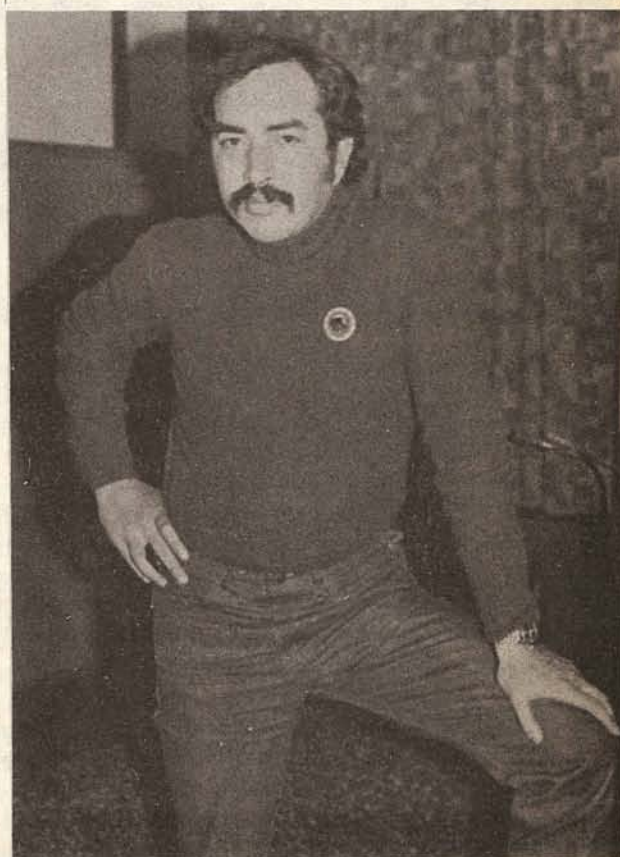
*In the fourth part of an exclusive interview with KEEP STRONG, Jose Medina recounts his experiences in the days following his arrest by FBI agents for being a Mexican in this country without papers. It should be noted that it is highly unusual for such an arrest to be made by the FBI since this is the responsibility of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Medina, a political activist on both sides of the border, has been fighting his deportation and demanding political asylum in this country since his arrest on March 29, 1976.*

"We were a good group of people who felt that we were being forced out of this country without a real chance, without any real reason for being forced out. You could see the sadness on the faces of many of the workers, even though there was immense solidarity; sadness in having to leave their families; the hassle of trying to think of who's going to take up the economic burden that their families were under; the bills that they had to pay; that they were at this point the only means of subsistence for their families."

So spoke Jose Medina of those who shared his first experience in immigration jail where he was detained along with 60 other undocumented workers. After spending two hours being interrogated by FBI and INS agents, Medina spent the next four hours with his fellow prisoners. During that time, "there were several confrontations with the immigration agents. We were then taken onto a bus, like a patrol wagon, where two or three of us would have to sit in a seat. The bus had a capacity for 30, and there were more than 70 of us who were in it. We began talking about an incident that happened in 1974 when 36 undocumented workers were in a bus similar to this with bars and no way of getting out. The bus turned over and it burst into flames. The 36 who were inside were trapped,

and the driver left without helping them to get out. They were killed instantly. This in a sense awoke an hysteria within the workers, and they began screaming at the driver.

"We were then taken to Chula Vista where we met up with 300 more workers, and we had a type of rally. In this rally we began to denounce the method of transportation—that we were treated like cattle and not as human beings. At that point the agents tried to stop me from speaking and told me that I should be quiet. Immediately there was a response from the



workers who told them to leave me alone. Then they separated me from the others, and I was by myself in a cell. I was told if I wouldn't be quiet I would be sent up north.

"At 2 a.m. we were taken again in another bus to the center of California where there was an even larger concentration. We arrived about 4 a.m. and passed through another inspection. We were forced to take off all our clothes and there we stood for an hour naked, all of us protesting because of the cold.

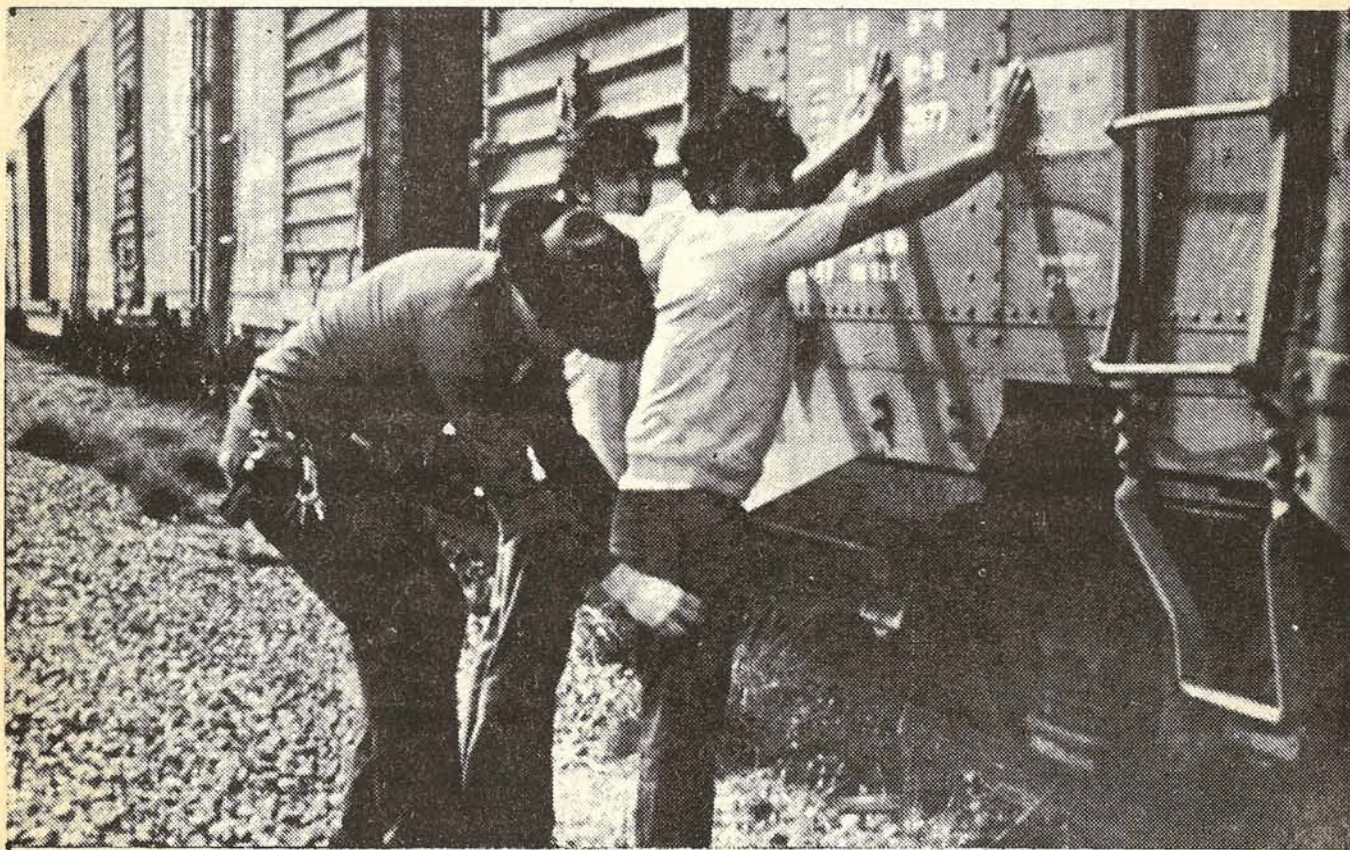
"At 5 a.m. they told us to go to sleep and woke us at 5:30. Then we were taken into a larger room where we were confronted with another 600 workers who were already there. There they gave us breakfast. Then they took us to a huge corral about as big as two football fields. It was in the middle of the desert so there was a lot of dust, and it was super hot. There was nothing we could go under to get out of the sun. We stayed there all day from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.. We played football and a bunch of other games that we invented just to distract ourselves. Some of us that had come together were familiar with each other, and we had small discussion groups."

That night they were sent to dormitories where people became very agitated. There was a lot of talk about the conditions they were in. Medina and five others were eventually re-

moved, held at an office for an hour, and then sent to other dormitories.

"The next day everyone was anxiously awaiting deportation in order that they might be able to return and be reunited with their families—once they crossed the border and came back with them. People were waiting for their names to be called. I was called and released on \$5000 bond. They did not let me go back in order to say good bye to the friends that I had made. Instead they just threw me out on the street. I was confused because I did not know what was going to happen. I wasn't sure whether I was going to be picked up by the FBI again and taken to the other side of the border. I didn't know what was happening.

"What was most important for me was that I was waiting for someone to come and pick me up from L.A. While I was waiting I noticed buses with bars on the windows and all the people that I had been detained with inside. They were being taken to the other side of the border and with clenched fists they called out, "We will return, we will return." At the same time I clenched my fist in solidarity with them. It was an emotional experience because I was standing on top of a little hill as they were passing. Since that time I have seen some of them return: I have seen many of them incorporated, and they have given much support to my case."□

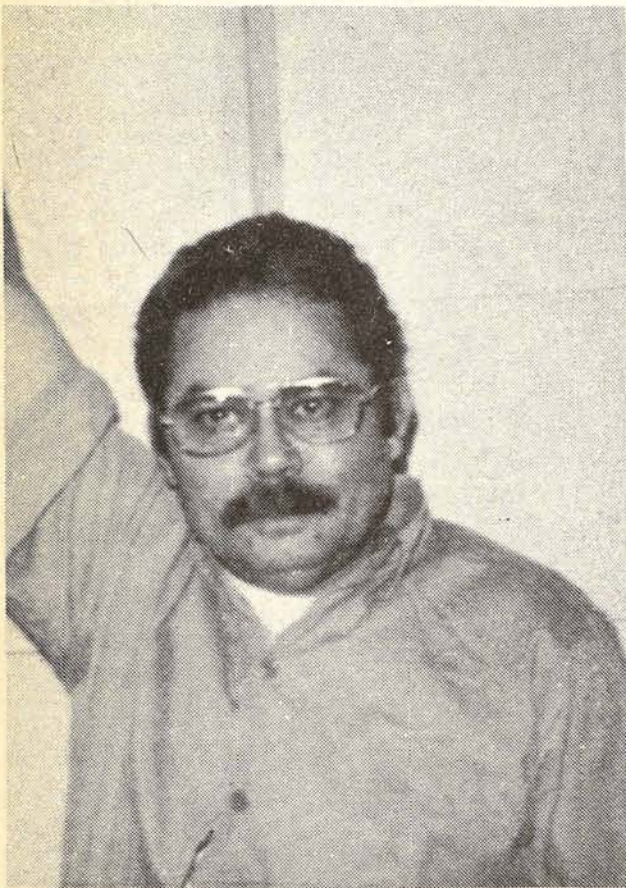


Immigration agent searches suspected undocumented worker.

## NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

### ***Pressure Mounts To Free The Five Puerto Rican Nationalists***

(Chicago, Ill.) Last month federal judge John Sirica ordered that the U.S. Bureau of Prisons had 20 days to petition the court to reduce the minimum sentence of Puerto Rican Nationalist Andres Figueroa Cordero, terminally ill with cancer at the U.S. Federal Prison in Springfield, Missouri. The decision means that Cordero, already in prison for 23 years would immediately become eligible for parole. Sirica's announcement is the result of a pending federal lawsuit filed by the five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners last November and the growing campaign to free the Five — Cordero, Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, Rafael Cancel Miranda and Irvin Flores — the



Andres Figueroa Cordero

longest held political prisoners in the United States. The Five were sentenced to 75 years in prison for their armed protest in U.S. Congress demanding an end to U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

The suit, filed by the Five Nationalists (See *KS*; Dec., 1976), members of their families and supporters, called for the immediate release of Cordero because of his cancerous condition. While the suit charges that the Five are receiving discriminatory treatment because of their political beliefs, further confinement of Cordero constitutes cruel and unusual punishment particularly because of his illness.

While prison doctors claim Cordero's cancer is in remission, specialists consulted by lawyers maintain that Cordero's condition is critical. One cancer specialist, Dr. Sabin from St. Louis, Mo., stated that Cordero's present cancer is the result of medical neglect from the outset. Citing Cordero's first signs of rectal bleeding in 1971, Sabin claims that if prison doctors hadn't dismissed the situation as hemorrhoids, Cordero might have had a 80% chance of recovery. Cordero bled for 15 months straight while being locked in a cell with 14 other prisoners at Leavenworth Prison. Furthermore, Dr. Sabin maintains that present doctors are not doing adequate tests to say whether or not the cancer is in remission.

While the recent court order demanding Cordero's release is the result of public pressure both in the United States and Puerto Rico, his attorneys think the government will cut the minimum sentence and offer parole in order to avoid a full hearing of Andres' case in Springfield. Such a hearing would compel the government to produce files they have on the Five which they have refused to make public.

Supporters and attorneys for the Five Nationalists point out that this recent action by the government is an attempt to put Cordero in a "trick bag." Two other Nationalists, Oscar Collazo and Lolita Lebron, became eligible for parole in 1963 and 1973, respectively, but refused to apply. The Five and their supporters have consistently demanded unconditional release. To accept parole would be to say that the actions taken by the Five against U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico were unlawful.

Meanwhile, supporters are urged to write to President Carter, U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell and Norman Carlson, director of the U.S. Bureau of the Prisons, demanding the unconditional release of Andres Figueroa Cordero and the other Nationalists. □

# Iranian Students Call For Support of Political Prisoners

(Chicago, Ill.) Last month the Iranian Student Association (ISA) held major demonstrations in Chicago, Houston, New York and Oklahoma City to call for the support of more than 100,000 political prisoners held in Iran. According to Amnesty International, Iran has the highest number of political prisoners and political executions in the world. In addition to demanding an immediate halt to physical and mental torture of Iranian political prisoners, the ISA is demanding that an international legal-medical team of observers be sent to Iran to investigate first hand the conditions of prisoners there.

Located in the middle east, near Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, Iran has a population of 27 million. The majority of people are poor, with some Iranian families earning less than \$200 per person annually. The wages are 85 to 95 cents and two-thirds of the children die by age 5. Much of the poverty and oppression of the Iranian people can be traced to U.S. economic and military control of the country. U.S. corporations such as Standard Oil invest more than \$1 billion a year in Iran, with billions of dollars grossed in profits yearly by these firms. The U.S. is the chief supplier of arms to the Iranian government, with arms purchases in 1975 reaching close to \$5 billion. In addition, more than 30,000 American military advisers presently serve in Iran, with estimates of 60,000 by 1980.

However, as a resistance movement grows in Iran against the Shah's exploitative policies, repression has intensified against the Iranian students and others who dissent. In the U.S. local "red squads" including the Chicago Police Department's, have kept files of the activities of the ISA, supplied this information to the FBI who in turn turns it over to the CIA. Ultimately it reaches the hands of the Iranian secret police known as SAVAK. There is one SAVAK agent for every 450 Iranian citizens. These secret police reportedly receive much of their training from U.S. military advisers here in the U.S. Recently it was announced that the U.S. was installing a secret electronic intelligence gathering system called IBEX for the Iranian government which will cost \$500 million.

In addition to the technical aid, Iranian



students protest the recent appointment by Carter of William Sullivan as ambassador to Iran as a gross violation of human rights. Sullivan was formerly in charge of the secret war operations in Laos, bombing missions in south-east Asia and martial law in the Phillipines. Finally, it should be noted that recent legislation introduced in Congress to curb activities of groups like SAVAK.

Iranian students have cited the systematic denial of the rights of imprisoned Iranians along with torturous treatment. The SAVAK carries out the torture: rape of women, torture in front of families, forced standing in knee high water. In this country Iranian students have demonstrated to protest these conditions and frame-up charges against Iranians accused of murdering a SAVAK agent recently in Paris. Last November Chicago police arrested nine ISA members here for peacefully demonstrating in front of the French consulate protesting the frame-up. These students now face deportation. □

## Mohawk Indians Win Victory In New York State

(Moss Lake, N.Y.) A group of Mohawk Indians who have occupied an Adirondack Mountain campsite for three years, have reached an agreement with the State of New York. The



**"We cannot wish the Europeans off the land, and the Europeans cannot wish us away. We're civilized people, and we should sit down like civilized people and discuss this."**

agreement will end the occupation of a 612 acre girls' camp at Moss Lake. Part of nine million acres called Ganienkeh, extending from New York to Vermont, the Mohawk Nations claimed it belonged to them. Their claim is based on a 1794 treaty signed by six Iroquois Nations (Senecas, Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas, Oneidas and Tuscaroras) and the United States Government. According to Article II of the treaty, "Certain lands are acknowledged as the lands of the Six Nations by the U.S. and the U.S. will never claim or disturb them."

An armed occupation began on May 13, 1974 when a large contingent of Mohawk people, with allies from other North American tribes, took over the unoccupied girls' camp in upstate New York. The idea of the occupation was not to protest or simply call attention to the situation of Native Americans, but rather to regain the Mohawk homeland, settle it and reestablish their way of life.

According to Kakwirakeron, spokesperson for the group, "Ganienkeh (Land of the Flint) to us is an area of land that has always belonged to our people for many generations before the Europeans came here. It's an area where Indian people are free to practice their own form of government and follow their own spiritual ceremonies. It is a place where we can live in harmony and closeness to the Earth. It is a place where Indian people can be the type of people that were put here by the Creator.

"To many Americans, Ganienkeh is located in what they term upstate New York. It's approximately nine million acres in the Adirondack Mountains and surrounding area. It's land that

has been guaranteed to us and by us through treaties signed by the U.S. and the Six Nation Confederacy.

"Ganienkeh is many different things to most Indian people that are living there now. Basically, it is a place where we can live our own way of life and not be dominated by a culture or a society that is non-Indian. It is a place where we're free to follow our own destiny as we see it and in a way of life we've been given.

"Indian people of the future in North America will be able to have a free choice. They can live and follow the road of the white man if they choose. Or they can go back to their roots and live as traditional Indian people once again. It must come from inside the person. Ganienkeh is just that. It's come from the Indian people, from the people who are going back to their roots, to the teachings of their grandfathers. It's a place where we can speak our own language and where we teach our children to live in harmony, not only with Nature, but with all living creatures, including man..."

Since the beginning of the occupation, many illegal FBI actions have been taken against the people. There have been shooting incidents and court hearings. There has been a lot of pressure on the Indians by the state of New York to accept offers of poor farming land. Through all of the harassment and repression, the Indian people have stood strong in their goal of establishing their own community once again.

The agreement reached will give the Indians 5,000 acres of land in nearby Clinto County from Macombs State Park. The Indians have 90 days

after August to move from their present site at Moss Lake.

"We cannot wish the Europeans off the land, and the Europeans cannot wish us away. We're civilized people, and we should sit down like civilized people and discuss this," concluded Kakwirakeron. □

## New Criminal Code Bill Threatens Civil Liberties

(Washington, D.C.) The Criminal Code Reform Act of 1977 (SB 1437) is the Carter administration's latest attempt to revise the controversial Senate Bill One which was defeated last year due to pressure mounted by a national campaign including civil liberties and other progressive organizations.

The new bill, sponsored by Senators Kennedy and McClellan, poses several threats to people's right to assemble and protest government policies and actions. One section of the bill makes it an offense to influence a judicial proceeding by

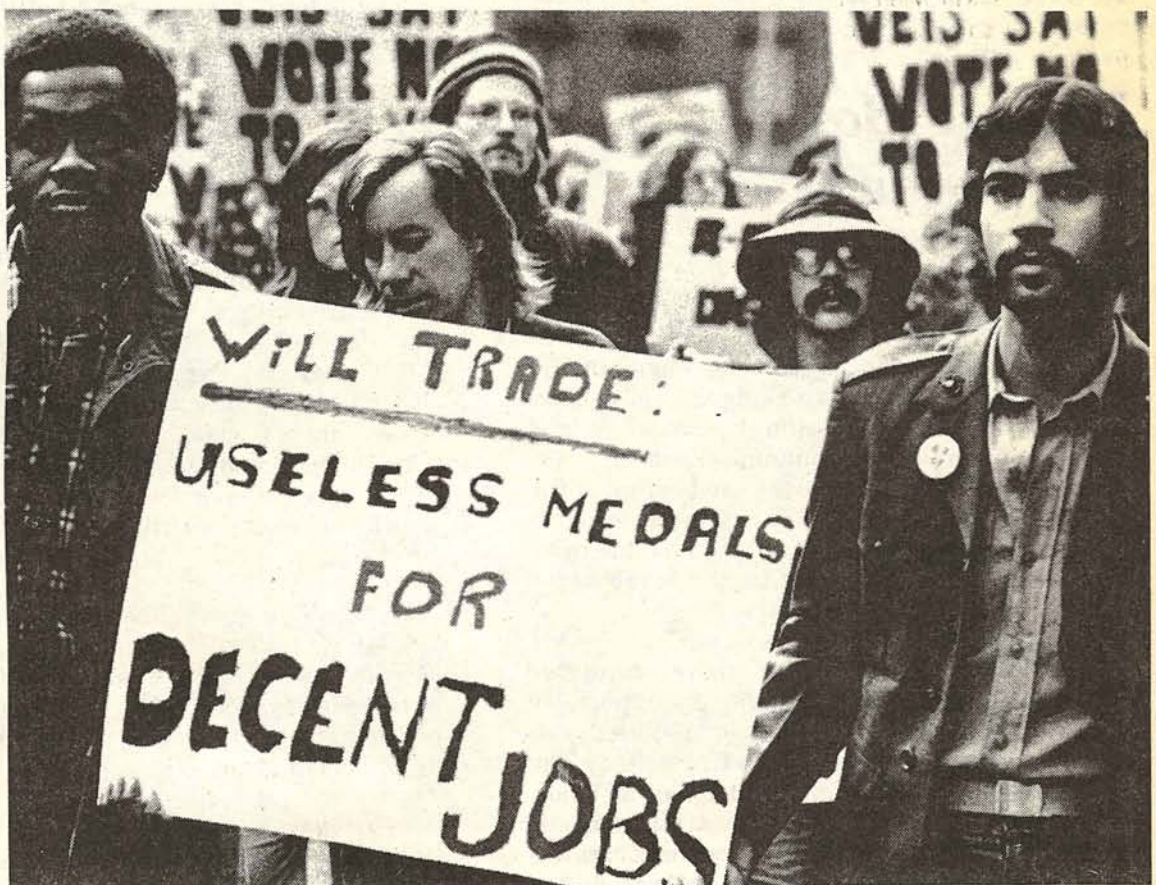
holding a demonstration. Criminal charges can also be brought for failure to obey a public safety order, obstructing a government function by physical interference and obstructing a proceeding by disorderly conduct.

Other provisions of the new bill could seriously affect organized labor unions' activities. A blackmail provision and extortion provision would outlaw wildcat strikes and impose criminal penalties.

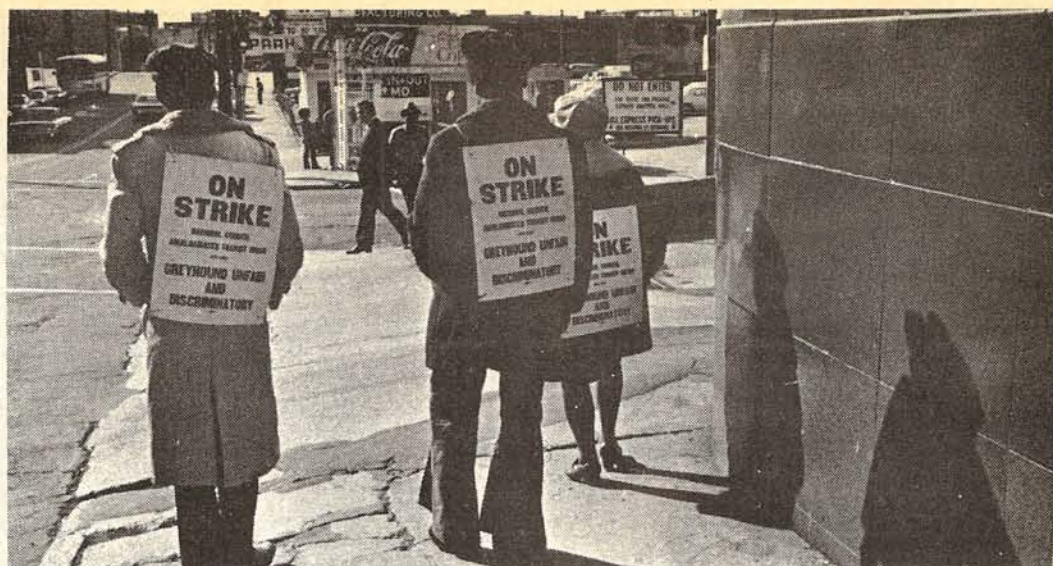
Like Senate Bill One, SB 1437 poses serious threats to the rights of the accused. Illegally obtained evidence can be introduced at a sentencing hearing, and provisions remain which would result in political harassment of people who refused to cooperate with grand juries, the FBI and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

In a step to impose longer prison sentences and abolish parole, the bill proposes the establishment of a U.S. Sentencing Commission. The body would draft guidelines to direct judges in their sentencing. Judges would be required to state their reasons for imposing a sentence, and failure to comply with guidelines could result in a longer sentence if the government appeals. The bill also virtually abolishes parole by providing that 90% of the prison term be served.

The new bill poses threats to the people's right to assemble and protest government policies and actions.



Senate Bill 1437, a rehash of Senate Bill 1, would pose serious threats to labor activities.



Civil liberties groups warn that while the more dangerous aspects of SB 1 like the death penalty and official secrets act have been removed from this bill, these measures are being introduced in separate pieces of legislation. SB 1437 should be viewed as the government's continued attack on the progressive forces which successfully defeated Senate Bill One and which continue to fight repressive legislation and abuses by law enforcement and intelligence agencies. □

## People Band Together To Ban The SST

(Queens, N.Y.) The struggle to oppose the landing of the Concorde jet, a huge British French Supersonic jet, is picking up momentum in Howard Beach, Cedarhurst, Lawrence and other communities surrounding Kennedy Airport. The controversy involves the landing of the huge jet at Kennedy, which community residents say would increase the noise to an unbearable level and create a hazard for people living in the area.

In the latter part of May there were two successful stall-in actions at Kennedy Airport. On Sunday, May 15, cars from communities surrounding the airport, drove out to Kennedy and slowed their cars down to 5-10 miles an hour. They effectively tied up traffic at the airport during the height of Sunday commuting. On Sunday, May 22, in response to a federal judge's

okay for the Concorde to land at Kennedy, over 1,800 cars totally tied up traffic at the airport. The protestors vowed to continue their opposition of the landing of the SST, regardless of a federal court order.

John Fazio, a long time resident of Howard Beach, said today that the Concorde wouldn't land, "not without a fight, no way...not without chaining myself to that airport and getting myself arrested a few times."

The federal government's position is to allow the Concorde a one year test period of landing at Kennedy. Spokespersons for the Department of Transportation feel that it wouldn't cause any hardship to the people of the area. They cite as proof the test period of the Concorde at Dulles Airport in Maryland.

Carol Berman, chairwoman of the Emergency Coalition to Stop the SST, said that the tests at Dulles Airport:

"...prove nothing. The areas are totally dissimilar. We are half a million people compacted into a small area around the airport. The Dulles population is miles and miles away. With our large population and 10 million planes overhead going to Kennedy, we are much different.

"If it was one occasional plane maybe we too would think it's pretty. But when they're coming at your house, and the dishes are shaking, the mirrors breaking, and the ceiling is coming down on the baby, you're not going to look up and say, 'Gee, isn't that pretty.'

"The Concorde is only going to serve a small number of people," said a local fisherman, "It's more or less for the rich people. It's not for us." □

# INTERCOMMUNAL PERSPECTIVE

## Western Nations Reject African Document

(Maputo, Mozambique) At the U.N. conference held here last month on southern Africa, the five western members of the U.N. security council and the nine European Common Market countries rejected the final declaration which had been adopted by 92 of the nations and African liberation movements who attended the conference. The western nations issued separate statements saying that they were unable to associate themselves with some of the provisions of the document. They did not specify which provisions they would not accept, but western sources said the main stumbling blocks were a proposal that the security council impose a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa and the extension of sanctions against Rhodesia to include an embargo on all communications.

Andrew Young, representing the U.S. view at the conference, urged a course of negotiations and economic boycott pressures to bring about



Robert Mugabe, Secretary-General of ZANU

majority rule in Zimbabwe and Namibia. Young also stated that the "hope" of the people of southern Africa was their ability to attract large advanced western corporations. He urged the creation of a large middle class Black elite as the answer to the apartheid system, saying that this would solve the current crisis in South Africa because then a great number of Blacks would have a direct stake in the system. Continuing to create the illusion that the Carter administration is interested in change, Young said, "I say we are not immune to the struggles that Africa faces, that we have known these struggles ourselves and it is because of this that you see a determination on the part of this Carter administration to bring about changes around the



"America is not going to do any more about bringing Black majority rule than make threats against Rhodesia's White minority Ian Smith regime. The only thing that remains is armed struggle — and we are making headway in that."

world that are consistent with the new spirit of America that was brought on by a silent and nonviolent revolution."

Citing the obvious inconsistencies in Young's speech, African leaders said, "We are not talking about improving the lot of Africans, we are talking about liberation. People are dying in Zimbabwe and children were killed in Soweto. Meanwhile, U.S. investment in South Africa has grown from nothing to over \$2 billion.

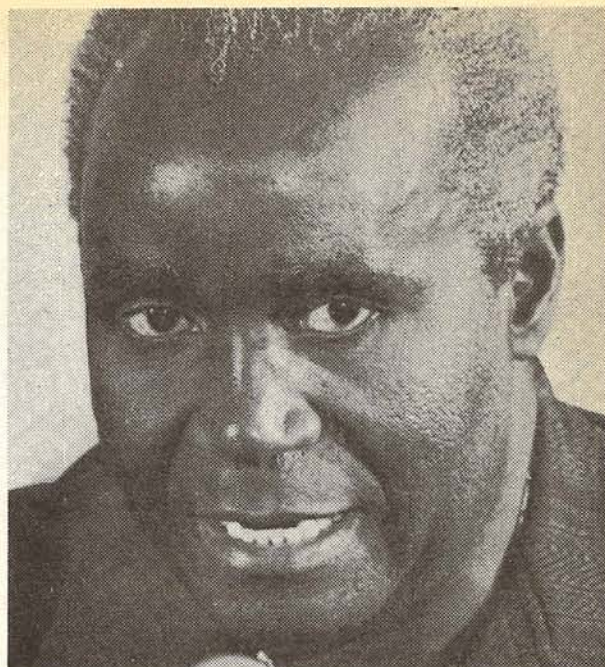
Robert Mugabe, Secretary-General of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), charged that Young's speech was hollow and his talk of a revolution in American life a pretense. Mugabe, co-chairman of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, declined to appear with Young after a meeting between the two, saying that he was convinced that "America is not going to do any more about bringing Black majority rule than make threats against Rhodesia's White minority Ian Smith regime. The only thing that remains is armed struggle — and we are making headway in that." □

## Zambia Accuses Rhodesia Of New Provocation

(Lusaka, Zambia) The Zambian government charged Rhodesia last month with provoking an exchange of weapons fire across the common



Location of attack provoked by Rhodesia



President Kaunda declared Zambia, one of the five frontline states in southern Africa, in a "state of war" with the White minority regime of Rhodesia.

border between the two countries.

The May 20 incident occurred at Victoria Falls, a popular tourist attraction, in northwestern Rhodesia. The Zambian forces fired mortars and machine guns across the Zambezi River, which, along with Victoria Falls, forms the border between Zambia and its White-ruled neighbor.

An angry statement issued by the Zambian government said that if Rhodesia wanted trouble, "they will get it." President Kenneth Kaunda also charged that several Zambians were killed by landmine explosions in the border area which caused the Victoria Falls incident.

Just two days earlier, on May 18, President Kaunda declared Zambia, one of the five frontline states in southern Africa, in a "state of war" with the White minority regime of Rhodesia. The Zambian leader placed his country's armed forces on alert, vowing to shoot down any Rhodesian planes that flew over Zambian territory.

Kaunda said that the "state of war" declaration had been made because he had been warned by Great Britain that the Rhodesian government might make pre-emptive attacks against Zimbabwean Patriotic Front military bases in Zambia.

The frontline states of Mozambique, Botswana, and Zambia have allowed the fighting forces of the Patriotic Front to launch attacks against Rhodesia from inside the three countries. □

*Reprinted from The Black Panther*



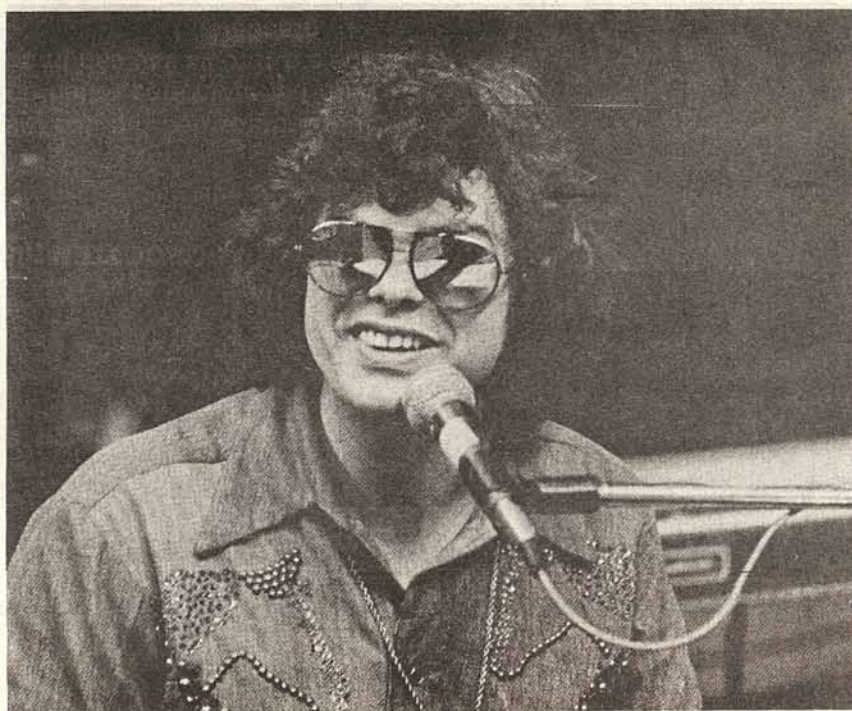
# RONNIE MILSAP

*Ronnie Milsap, the popular country music singer from North Carolina, was in Chicago on May 26 for a dynamic performance. Obviously talented, versatile and very self-reliant, Ronnie has been blind since birth. While he was here KEEP STRONG interviewed the popular singer.*

**Q:** We'd like to hear about who you play to, who you direct your music to.

**A:** I've been singing country music all my life, but only professionally and only successfully, I guess, for the last four years. A lot of country music has been typically the cheating songs, drinking songs, what they used to call tear jerkers. I call them heart songs more than tear jerkers. That kind of song, that kind of approach—the pain and the misery that goes along with country music. Well, I'm a very happy person, and I've never felt that it was totally me to sing that, although I do sing some of it, because a good song is a good song. But most of

my music is about the good things. You know there's been enough sung and enough said and enough lived and felt by everybody about the hard times and the bad things that happen, and it's been relived song after song. So I sing a lot of happy songs—a lot of positive things about positive situations. My songs are really designed for the guys that work in the factories, the truckers and people that work in the service stations. Just everyday people. People that are having to struggle to pay their bills every week and struggling from one pay day to the next. But I like to sing about the good things. I've sung a lot of songs like "I'm A Stand By My Woman-Man," and "Daydreams About Night Things" tells about the guy out there working; "What Goes On When The Sun Goes Down"; "Let My Love Be Your Pillow." All these kinds of songs I recorded purposely because it's really what I want to sing about. There really didn't seem to be anybody in country music that had anything happy to sing about. And I wanted to change that. I wanted to





sing about something good, and positive, because that's what my life's about.

**Q:** Why is it that over the last four or five years country music has caught on and is picking up? I mean even up here in the north you hear country music in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and it's the music of the people now.

**A:** There are many reasons. Opinions are like an elbow—everybody's got one, so here's mine. It seems like when rock 'n roll, and I'm talking about hard rock 'n roll, which was very big in the '60s, came to a place, in my mind, where it really didn't have anywhere to go, it burnt itself up. And there were a lot of people that started to look for something different that they could relate to — something a little bit more fresh, a little bit not quite so frantic. So a lot of people heard country music for the first time, and they thought well, "I like that." And, too, country music has changed. It's not the sound that it was 20 years ago, and a lot of things that wouldn't have been palatable to people back then—they can dig it now. And it comes with the mood of the country. Usually during a conservative period, even back in the '50s during the conservative era, country music was the biggest growing music.

**Q:** Where are you at politically? What do you think about the situation in the world?

**A:** Well, going around to the few other places that I've been to outside of this country, there's a lot we can certainly do to change it and better it. It's definitely worth the effort.

**Q:** The magazine that we put out was started because we felt it was time to project the validity of people's struggle to survive. So in terms of that, people really do have to struggle to live day by day—like you were saying people who work in the gas stations and the factories and what have you. How do you see your music in terms of this? We agree it's important to talk about the good side of things, but do you think there is any more to it?

**A:** Sure, everything you do in life comes like a circle, and it comes back to you. You know, if you



meet hardship with action, to try to change that, I really think you can. If you meet problems with solutions, I think you can change things. I'm not saying my music is going to change anything, but maybe it'll make somebody happy and think, "Hey, maybe there's something I can do about my situation. I haven't had a job for three months," and it might make somebody all of a sudden get a burst of energy to go out there and look for something. I know that there's a lot of people having a lot of trouble, and I know that there's a lot of fighting, a lot of problems because I have them too, like everybody else. But the only thing I can hope is people will meet those problems with action or something, at least try. That's what I'm trying to do with my music.



Ronnie and the band: Clockwise, starting behind Ronnie, are Dick Overby, Steve Collom, Johnny Cobb, Steve "The Hawk" Holt and Manager Jack D. Johnson.

**Q:** Did you ever play in the coal fields, in West Virginia or Harlan County?

**A:** No, I don't believe I have. I'd love to, but what happens when you're playing shows you wind up going to Charleston, W. Va. or Huntington, the big places where the people are accustomed to going. □



# BEV GRANT & The Human Condition

Once again Uptown residents have had the opportunity to hear Bev Grant and The Human Condition" from New York City, at the May Country Music Sunday.

The overflow crowd listened intently to Bev and the group's songs that speak of real life conditions. Hearing about their lives, not always happy or good or free from misery, was a treat, and the audience responded warmly and enthusiastically. Afterwards, Bev commented to *KEEP STRONG* that "Playing here in Uptown is always good for us. To play before an audience is one thing, but the people of Uptown show so

much spirit and have so much to teach about struggle that we always go away with something more than we came with."

Bev stated that their music is directed primarily at poor and working people who have everything to gain and nothing to lose by participating in a struggle for change. She hopes that in some way the people who hear their music can take courage and spirit from it and direct that into some kind of positive action.

We have reprinted two songs by Bev Grant for your enjoyment:



Bev Grant and The Human Condition. Members of the band from the left are: Gene Hicks, Jerry Mitnick, Phil Leone, Bev, Jerry Ross.



The overflow crowd listened intently to Bev and the group's songs that speak of real life conditions.

### FEEL GOOD

You say that you love me but all I feel is pain  
When the sun's out there shining, you're talkin'  
'bout it looks like rain.

I know you ain't happy, it's so plain to see  
You got to feel good about yourself before you  
can feel good about me.

If you ain't doing nothing for yourself to bring  
peace of mind  
And you spend your life crying 'bout how you  
wasted time  
You won't find the answer in just loving me  
You got to feel good about yourself before you  
can feel good about me.

One thing I learned from loving and being hurt  
Is that you can't build your life around  
someone else and not expect to be treated  
like dirt,  
You got to go out there and find yourself and  
build your own identity  
You got to feel good about yourself or you're  
never gonna feel good about me.

All that I'm saying is when you put yourself  
down  
It hurts me so much I just can't stick around  
I ain't got the answer to your misery  
You got to feel good about yourself before you  
can feel good about me.

©1975 B. Grant

### FORGOTTEN HISTORY

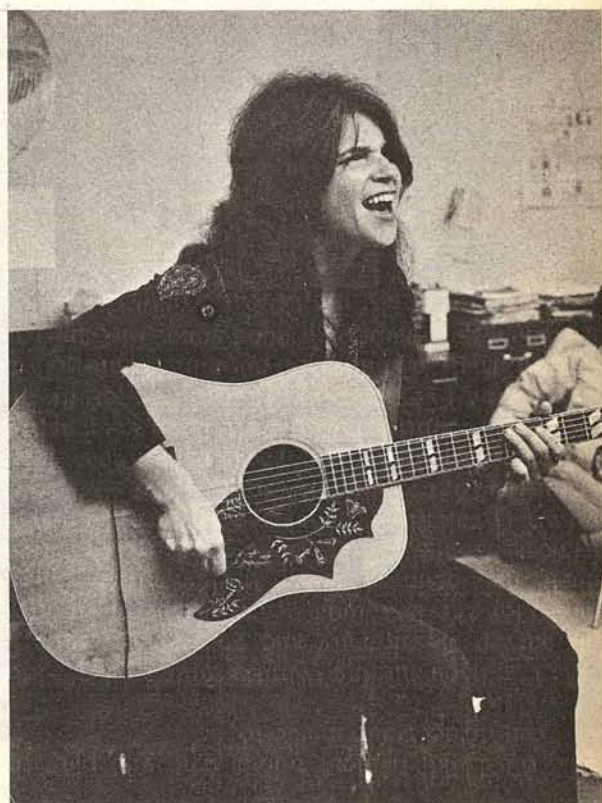
#### Chorus

Just a discarded rag like the ones she collects  
With her stockings rolled down to her knees  
She's a throwaway can in a Bicentennial  
grandstand  
Another piece of forgotten history.

I. Under a sign in the subway she sits, a woman  
who's long past her prime  
Catching a nod, cause she's no place to go in a  
world where she's been left behind  
The sign overhead blazes red, white and blue.  
The birth of a nation is sold.  
"Still young" screams the sign in open defiance  
of her who is so very old. (Repeat Chorus)

II. Once was a time when wisdom was  
cherished. Like wine it grew better with  
age  
But now, while the value of antiques goes up,  
on old folks they just turn the page  
Old woman, you're no longer useful to them,  
cause you don't help increase the wealth  
So they simply ignore you, don't do nothing for  
you, you're left out to die on the shelf.  
(Repeat Chorus)

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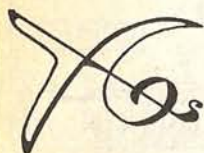
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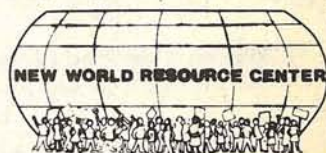
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# A PROGRAM FOR SURVIVAL

*"All these programs satisfy the deep needs of the community but they are not solutions to our problems. That is why we call them survival programs, meaning survival pending revolution."—Huey P. Newton*

## Each One Teach One Program

Founded on the concept that it is everyone's responsibility to teach our children the skills necessary to survive, this program concretely is designed to raise the reading skills of the neighborhood youth.

## Tenants Survival Union

Provides assistance and community support in landlord-tenant disputes. Building management and maintenance skills which exist in the community are put to use in order to improve neglected buildings.

## Legal Education & Defense Program

Offers counseling, advice and assistance in finding an attorney when necessary in any kind of legal, welfare or social security dispute.



Monthly Country Music  
Sunday at the Uptown  
People's Community  
Service Center

## Black Lung Association

Provides assistance to ex-coal miners and their widows in their struggle to get the benefits they are entitled to by law.

Mutual aid programs also exist to deal with basic food, transportation and medical needs to the more severely afflicted black lung victims.

## Intercommunal News Service

Provides news and information about the world and poor and oppressed communities through the distribution of *Keep Strong* magazine and *The Black Panther*.

## Food Cooperatives

Provides good quality foods at lower than supermarket prices through community participation and community co-operative buying.

Following the people's victory in Oakland, California and on the eve of the return of Huey P. Newton, **KEEP STRONG** dedicates this issue to the survival programs.

